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A DISCOURSE CONCERNING The Nature, Author, Means and Manner of CONVERSION.

By H. KENNEDY, A. M. Minister of the Gospel at *Rotterdam*.

Prefixed to the *Dutch* Translation of *a faithful Narrative of the Extraordinary Work of the Spirit of God at* Kilsyth, *and other Congregations in the Neighbourhood.*

Written by J. ROBE, *A. M.* Minister of the Gospel at *Kilsyth.*

JOHN iii. 3. *---Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*

EZEK. xxxvii. 3. *---Son of man, can these bones live? and I answered, O Lord God thou knowest.*

JOHN v. 25. *Verily, verily I say unto you,---The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.*

EPHES. i. 15---20. *Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation, in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightned: that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power; Which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.*

ACTS ii. 33. *Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.*

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BRITISH MUSEUM

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DISCOURSE

CONCERNING

The Nature, Author, Means and Manner of Converſion.

THE Converſion of Elect Sinners, from Sin and Satan, to God and Holineſs, which comprehends the whole Work of the Spirit of Chriſt, in Effectual Calling and Regeneration, till it be compleated in Juſtifying Faith, introduces ſuch a vaſt Change, that the Converted do as truly become new Creatures, as if they had other Kinds of Beings given them. And indeed, there needs no more, but the different Uſe and Exerciſe of the ſame reaſonable Powers, to make us either as Brutes or as Angels! The Change would not be ſo great, to ſee Clods of Earth brightening into Stars, as to ſee poor brutiſh Sinners becoming Saints, ſhining with all the radiant Graces of Chriſtians, and ripening for Glory!

This Work of the Holy Spirit, is in Scripture expreſſed by many different Names, that the Defects of one may be ſupplied by the Fulneſs of others. It is called a *New Creature*, to denote the Almighty-creating Power by which it is effected! *Regeneration*, to denote the univerſal marvellous Change it makes upon the Elect! *Effectual Calling*, to denote our being

ſar off from God by Nature, and ſo faſt aſleep, nay, ſo intirely dead in Sin, that we can only be rouzed and reſtored to Life by his all-quickening Voice! *Converſion*, to denote the Soul's Return from Sin, Satan and the World, to God in Chriſt, to Holineſs and to Heaven! It is alſo called, *Repentance unto Life*, *The firſt Reſurrection*, and many other Names, which do all ſignify the ſame Thing, even the tranſlating of Elect Sinners, out of the Kingdom of Darkneſs, into the Kingdom of God's dear Son, and enabling them to receive and reſt wholly and only upon Jeſus Chriſt, for Life and Righteouſneſs, for Grace and for Glory!

The Change wrought by the Spirit and Grace of God, very much reſembles the Creation of this viſible World, wherein Light was brought out of Darkneſs, Beauty out of Deformity, and Harmony out of Confuſion! For ſo the whole habitual Frame of Heart and Life is marvellouſly changed and altered! The Diſtinction indeed, between the Converted and Unconverted, is not always at preſent viſible enough to convince the World of common Spectators, that it is ſo great as really it is! All true Converts are greatly enriched with the Gifts and Graces of the Spirit of God; but yet there may be little or no Excellency appearing to thoſe, who look no farther than the Outſide, and obſerve only the Corruptions that ariſe in their outward Actions and Converſation; but when ſecret Things ſhall be revealed, the Difference will be manifeſt to all, *Rom.* viii. 19. 1 *John* iii. 2.

It was with great Pleaſure, I lately recommended to the Publick, a ſhort, but faithful *Narrative*, of a remarkable Work of Converſion begun and going forward in *Scotland!* And bleſſed be God, I can now tell you of greater Things ſtill! The Word of the Lord has a free Courſe, and is glorified. At *Kilſyth*, a ſmall Town, about nine Miles diſtant from *Glaſgow*, and in many neighbouring Pariſhes, they enjoy victorious triumphant Days of the Son of Man; IMMANUEL has mounted his white Horſe, having on his

his Head many Crowns, and in his Majeſty rides forth proſperouſly, with his Bow in his Hand, the Arrows whereof are ſharp in the Hearts of Elect Sinners, ſubduing their rebellious Spirits to the Lord!

You will ſee by the following *Narrative*, to which you may ſafely give intire Credit, the Writer being a faithful Servant of Jeſus Chriſt, one who is made divinely wiſe to win Souls, whoſe Heart is in his great Maſter's Work, and who declares only what he has ſeen and heard! I ſay, you'll ſee, how wonderfully *Zion*'s King diſplays the Power, Riches and Sovereignty of his Grace, and advances his Kingdom, Honour and Glory among Men! The Lord's great Work of quickening dead Souls goes on apace! Many Hundreds are made willing in Days of Power to be the Lord's; and Thouſands revived, refreſhed, ſtrengthned and confirmed in the Ways of the Lord! Oh! might our Eyes ſee ſuch ſtately Goings of the great God our Saviour, in this Land, in every City, in every Congregation, where you and I are nearly concerned! May the Lord hatten it in his own good Time, that his People may rejoice in him!

What an admirable Effect of ſovereign omnipotent Grace, is the Converſion of periſhing Sinners from the Power of Satan unto God? The opening of the Graves at the Reſurrection, will be a glorious Diſplay of Almighty Power and Wiſdom! But the opening of thy hard obſtinate Heart, poor Sinner, to receive Jeſus Chriſt, is a more glorious Diſplay of the infinite Power, Greatneſs, Grace, Mercy and Faithfulneſs of Jehovah! The blind Mind is enlightned, by the pure Beams of the Sun of Righteouſneſs, and all its diſorderly Affections, brought under a ſacred Rule and Government! A new Eye is created in the Soul, which ſhews it a new World of glorious raviſhing Objects, of which it knew nothing before, 1 *Cor.* ii. 9,—14. *The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishneſs to him, neither can he know them, becauſe they are ſpiri-*

ſpiritually diſcerned. But when God ſhines into the Heart, *to give the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jeſus Chriſt*, 2 Cor. iv. 6. And when an Underſtanding is given to know him that is true, 1 *John* v. 20. then the Soul beholds his Glory, *the glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth*, John i. 14. Bleſſed and holy are they to whom this Eye is given!

The dead ſecure Conſcience is alarmed, filled with Fear and Horror, and cries, *What ſhall I do to be ſaved?* 'Tis made tender and watchful againſt all Sin, and to all Duty! The ſtubborn rebellious Will is melted down into the Will of the Lord, and cries, *Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?* The vain ſenſual Affections are refined and raiſed to heavenly Objects, and all the Members of the Body are yielded as Inſtruments of Righteouſneſs unto God. Thus is the exceeding Greatneſs of Jehovah's Power, and his mighty working, moſt eminently ſhewed forth, and ſhines more illuſtriouſly, than in the moſt ſtupenduous Miracles that ever were wrought in the Kingdom of Nature! It is therefore one of the firſt and moſt admirable Articles in the great Myſtery of Godlineſs, that *God manifeſt in the flesh, is believed on in the world*, 1 Tim. iii. 16.

It is juſtly aſtoniſhing to all, who have ever ſeen the peerleſs Beauty and Glory of IMMANUEL, that all to whom he is freely offered in the Goſpel, do not with flaming Affections embrace him, and yield themſelves to him for ever. But when we conſider the dreadful Enmity of the natural Heart againſt God, and how ſtrongly Satan has fortified himſelf in it, we may be ſtruck with eternal Joy and Admiration at the glorious Miracles of JEHOVAH's Grace and Mercy, Wiſdom, Power and Faithfulneſs, diſplayed in the Converſion of every poor Sinner! Oh, 'tis nothing leſs than the Almighty Power of God, which *works effectually in all them who believe*, 1 Theſſ. ii. 13.

It is a Miracle to give Sight to the Blind, but a much greater to enlighten the dark Mind, to ſee the Truth and Beauty of ſupernatural Myſteries, and effectually to believe them, when they are diſguiſed under Reproaches, and ſad Miſrepreſentations! It is a Prodigy to raiſe the Dead with a Word; but more ſo, to quicken and ſanctify a dead habituated Sinner; for there can be no Oppoſition made by a dead Body to the Divine Power in raiſing it: On the contrary, if any Senſe were remaining, it would ardently deſire to be reſtored to the full Enjoyment of Life! But corrupt Nature moſt violently oppoſes the Offers of renewing Grace and Mercy in the Goſpel! As ſoon will a Stone ſpring from the Earth, and ſeat itſelf among the fixed Stars, as the natural Man will take Shame and Confuſion of Face to himſelf, acknowledge the Righteouſneſs of God, tho' he ſhould caſt him off for ever, and come naked and empty-handed to Jeſus Chriſt, as one who juſtifieth the Ungodly, and be willing to be an eternal Debtor to ſovereign free Grace, 'till once the Lord Jeſus, by his ſweet, but almighty Power, overcome his natural Enmity, and draw the poor Sinner to himſelf!

It is promiſed, that Nations ſhould *be born in a day*; and when ſuch a quickening univerſal Efficacy goes forth with the Goſpel of Chriſt, as to renew manny Sinners at once, ſurely the Divine Power was never more viſibly manifeſted in any Work of God! Then is fulfilled that Word of our Lord, *John* xiv. 12. *Verily I ſay unto you, He that believes on me, the works that I do, ſhall he do alſo; and greater works than theſe ſhall he do, becauſe I go to my Father.* And ſurely when the Word of the Lord is made powerful and efficacious, by the almighty, ſweetly determining, Influences of the Holy Spirit, to convert Souls that lay dead in Sin, to enlighten Minds that were dark as the Shadow of Death,

Death, to make the Simple wiſe, to bring deſperate Sinners off from their Enmity and Oppoſition to Jeſus Chriſt, to become his willing joyful Servants for ever; this is a moſt glorious ſtanding Miracle in the intellectual World, and does from Age to Age manifeſt the Power and Glory of our exalted Redeemer, who has *led captivity captive, and given gifts to men*, Eph. iv. 8.

God ſometimes manifeſts the Power of his Spirit, and exceeding Riches of his Grace, in the Converſion of his dear Elect, in a very viſible and remarkable Manner, to check the reigning Atheiſm and Infidelity of a Generation of Backſliders, by giving them ſo ſtupenduous a Conviction of the Truth and Faithfulneſs of God in his Word, that a Divine Spirit, and Power above Nature, does certainly accompany it, and that there is ſuch a future State of Rewards and Puniſhments, as is therein deſcribed. What can be a more convincing Demonſtration of theſe Things, than to ſee the moſt profane and notorious Sinners, in the Places where they lived, changed as much by a mighty Power coming along with the Goſpel, from what a few Days before they were, as if one Species of Creatures were changed into another, a Wolf or Tygar into a Lamb, an *Ethiopian* changing his Colour, or a Leopard his Spots!

When they who were full of helliſh Prejudices and Enmity againſt the Truths and Ways of God, are conſtrained to lay down their Averſion and Enmity, with Grief and Indignation againſt themſelves, for ſo long oppoſing Jeſus Chriſt, and *kicking againſt the pricks!* When the greateſt Sinners are made thus to fall on their high Places before the Power of the Word, and become Trophies of the Redeemer's Victories! When they who are as wiſe and diſcerning, and know the Value of outward Things, as well as any others, abandon their ardent Purſuit of mere ſenſual Enioyments, and all their

their former periſhing Delights, out of Reſpect to a glorious Recompence of Reward! When ſome of the moſt ſimple, nay dull and ſtupid, are made wiſe and underſtanding, in the great Things of God, by learning of Jeſus Chriſt in and by the Goſpel! When a bleſſed Change is wrought on ſome, who have been long rooted in Sin and the World, and grown old in reſiſting the merciful Calls and Offers of the Goſpel, when they are brought to the Feet of Jeſus, in Spite of Nature, Cuſtom, Education, and all the Diſadvantages, which uſually attend the Time of old Age! When young Ones, who, by Reaſon of their tender Years, can have no Deſigns to cheat the World, and living in Families, where no Advantages of a religious Education were enioyed, diſcover a Judgment in, and ſerious Concern about the great Things that relate to Eternity. Do not all theſe Things evidence the inward Teachings of the Holy Spirit?

When this Change paſſes upon great Numbers of all Sorts of People, who, in all other Reſpects, are allowed to be as wiſe and prudent as their Neighbours, and that at that Time, when no outward Advantage is to be gained by the ſtricteſt Piety, nor Diſadvantage ſuſtained by remaining in a natural unconverted State! And when 'tis carried on, by very improbable Means in the Eyes of the wiſe Men of this World, even the Simplicity of a preached Goſpel, and ſometimes by the weakeſt Inſtruments! When all theſe, and ſuch Things are conſidered, the World muſt ſee the marvellous Power of Divine Grace coming along with the Word, and producing Effects undeniably above Nature: And the greateſt Enemies and Scoffers at Religion, if they do not ſhut their Eyes againſt all Evidence, and contradict all the juſt Rules of Reaſoning, muſt be forced to confeſs, that the Change wrought upon ſuch poor Creatures is no Deluſion, but real and certain, valuable

and beneficial, and ſuch as the wiſeſt and greateſt might be glad to experience in themſelves and own!

What! when Men are reached with ſuch a Stroke by a few Words of the glorious Goſpel, as makes the ſtout-hearted, daring Sinner tremble, and ſhew by his Countenance, that there is another Tribunal than Man's, before which he is arraigned? when the Heart of Stone diſſolves into Tears, and trembles before that God whom it had daringly offended; and before that Word, which, thro' the Sinner's whole former Life, he was known to have ſlighted and neglected! When Sinners are filled with ſuch Grief and Terror as convinceth Spectators, that 'tis a Matter of the greateſt Earneſtneſs with them, and no Counterfeit! muſt not all conclude, by the juſteſt Rules of Reaſoning, that they are reached by ſome inviſible Power, before which there is no ſtanding? That it muſt be ſomething above moral Suaſion, or all the Perſuaſives of human Eloquence, ſince here the Plainneſs and Simplicity of the Goſpel, tho' counted by the World the Fooliſhneſs of Preaching, is only found effectual, when the moſt ſublime and elegant Strains of Oratory, the greateſt Gifts and Pomp of Learning, are ſpent in the Air without Succeſs, and leave Men but juſt where they found them! No, 'tis evident, as if written with the Point of a Sun-beam, that there is ſomething more in the Religion of ſuch Perſons, than Nature, or any Inſtitution without a Divine Influence, can poſſibly beſtow!

What, but the well-grounded Hope of that eternal Life, which God who cannot Lie hath promiſed, could take Men off from their ardent Purſuits of ſenſual Pleaſures, and bring them to *eſteem the reproach of Chriſt, greater riches than the treaſures of Egypt?* What, but the Power of Divine Grace, could beat them off from that Self-righteouſneſs, which they had all their Days been eſtabliſhing, and make them willing to part with all their Luſts and Idols, which were before dear to them as their Right-hand

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or Eye? Surely it muſt be a Doctrine full of Divine Power and Wiſdom, which gives this bleſſed Reſurrection! 'Tis above Nature, 'tis a Miracle of Grace, 'tis altogether the Work of God! To ſee the Drunkard turn ſober and temperate! The leud unclean Wretch, a Pattern of Chaſtity! The careleſs negligent Soul, diligent in working out Salvation-work with Fear and holy Trembling! Circumſpect and watchful againſt all Sin, and to all ſecret and ſocial Duties! The falſe and deceitful, faithful and true! The malicious, cruel and revengeful Spirit, charitable, merciful and forgiving! This is Miracle and Demonſtration, this witneſſes the Power of our Lord's Grace, and the Truth and Divinity of his Goſpel, far beyond all reaſonable Contradiction or Doubt!

Thus God manifeſted the almighty Power of his Grace, in the ſudden and wonderful Converſion of many Millions of Monſters of Wickedneſs in the Days of the Apoſtles, when the Spirit was more eminently poured forth; Thouſands were converted at one Sermon, the Sound of the Goſpel flying to the utmoſt Ends of the Earth! Thus he ſubdued Millions to the Obedience of Faith, at the Reformation, when he began to deſtroy the wicked One, *by the ſword of his mouth, and the brightneſs of his coming!* Cities and Countries might then be ſaid to be born at once! Thus did the Lord, by a plentiful Effuſion of his Spirit with his Word and Ordinances, wonderfully revive the Power of Godlineſs, in the Weſt of *Scotland*, about the Year 1625, when thro' a Flood of Perſecution, Profanity and Infidelity, *the things which remained*, even among the Lord's own People, *were ready to die!* How great and unexpected were the Changes that were brought about then all on a ſudden? Near Five hundred at one Sermon had a diſcernable Change wrought upon them, moſt of whom proved lively Chriſtians! and few *Sabbaths* paſſed without ſome evidently converted! Many in hearing of the Word, thro' Terror of the Lord, were made

made to fall over, and were obliged to be carried out of the Church, who afterwards proved moſt ſolid and lively Chriſtians; as that great and good Man Mr. *Robert Fleming*, gives an Account in the *Fulfilling of the Scripture*, as he does alſo, of a moſt plentiful Out-pouring of the Divine Spirit, to the Converſion of many Thouſands in the North of *Ireland*, about the Year 1628. Then did the Power of the Lord ſenſibly accompany his Word, with ſuch unuſual Emotions among the Hearers, ſuch extraordinary Enlargements of the Miniſters in Preaching, and ſuch bright Evidences of the Lord's promiſed Preſence, as filled Byſtanders with Aſtoniſhment, and ſtruck Terror into the Hearts of Adverſaries?

Thus has the Lord, of late Years, viſited *New England*, and other Parts of North *America*, with glorious Tokens of his Spirit's Power and Preſence, as appears from the Reverend Mr. *Edwards*, his *Narrative* of that ſurpriſing Work of God, atteſted and recommended by the Reverend Doctors *Watts* and *Guyſe*; and thus is the Lord, in the Multitude of his tender Mercies, now viſiting *Scotland*, his Goings there are full of Majeſty and Grace, after a long Night of Backſliding and Barrenneſs, and *the Lord had in anger covered the face of the daughter of Zion with a dark cloud!* A great many more ſuch Inſtances might be given in the Churches of the Reformation; tho' I muſt lament with the worthy Author of this *Narrative*, the great Loſs ſuſtained, by there not being ſome ſpecial and particular Record kept by the Churches of Chriſt, of the eminent and illuſtrious Examples of the Grace of God, which have been in ſeveral Periods, as well as of his remarkable and terrible Judgments.

We have ſufficient Ground to expect ſuch a plentiful Out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, becauſe there are innumerable Prophecies and Promiſes in the Old and New Teſtament, of the Church's illuſtrious Increaſe, by numerous Converſions towards the latter Days;

Days; for tho', doubtleſs, theſe Prophecies and Promiſes have been fulfilling, ever ſince the firſt Dawnings of Chriſtianity; yet the Magnificence of the Expreſſions uſed in them, ſeems yet to be very far from being anſwered by ſuitable Effects, but muſt certainly ſignify ſome greater Thing than we have hitherto ſeen!

The Converſion of dead guilty Sinners, is the Work of the Spirit of God; he only is the immediate Spring, Principle and efficient Cauſe of all Grace, quickening, enlightening and purifying the Soul, *John* i. 13. and iii. 5. 2 *Cor.* iii. 5. 1 *Theſ.* i. 5. *Tit.* iii. 5. That there is a real Energy and efficacious Working of the Holy Ghoſt, upon the Souls of Men, beginning, carrying on and perfecting the ſpiritual Life, infinitely beyond all moral Influence, or objective Teaching, is a Truth of the greateſt Importance, clearly revealed through the whole Scriptures, and found certain in the Experience of all the Saints.

It is indeed much to be lamented, that we have many Diſcourſes publiſhed about Religion, and the Duties of Chriſtian Obedience, with great Elegance of Stile, and Appearance of Serioufneſs and Devotion in Argument, wherein little or no Streſs is laid upon Jeſus Chriſt, his Spirit, Righteouſneſs or Grace; nay, very little Mention made of them, unleſs it be by Way of Reflection on thoſe, who, according to the univerſal Voice of Divine Revelation, maintain them to be the Life and Soul, the Center and Glory of the Chriſtian Religion! They ſeem to have no higher Notion of Converſion or Regeneration, than the external Practice of moral Virtue; a living agreeably to the Dictates of Nature's Light! To know no Influences or Efficacy of the Holy Spirit on Mens Souls, beyond the objective Teachings and Perſuaſions of the Word; nor any Uſe of the Perſon of Jeſus Chriſt, but what ariſes from his giving us (as they ſay) an excellent Scheme of Laws, and a perfect Example of Piety and Goodneſs in his Life! Such

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bold Imaginations, infinitely contradictory to all Revelation, ſufficiently diſcover, what Acquaintance ſuch Men have, either with Chriſt or his Spirit, whom in others they deſpiſe, or with his Goſpel, which they pretend to embrace, while its great and moſt diſtinguiſhing Doctrines, are yet Fooliſhneſs to them!

But if there be no real efficacious Influence of the Holy Spirit, upon the Souls of Elect Sinners, in their Converſion and progreſſive Sanctification, then theſe high and ſtrong Expreſſions, *To be born again, born of the Spirit, born of God, renewed by the Holy Ghoſt, made partakers of a divine nature, to be in the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit*, and innumerable more, would have no tolerable Senſe or Meaning! Then the moſt numerous Converſions, and greateſt Reformation muſt always be produc'd by the moſt eloquent moral Reaſoners, tho' there is nothing more certain, from all Facts and Experience, than the very contrary, even that the Simplicity of the Goſpel, and what the World reckon *the Fooliſhneſs of Preaching*, has infinitely exceeded all humane Eloquence in conquering Sinners to the Lord, and that the Kingdom of God is not *in word, but in power!* Then they who plant and water, would have the ſame Efficiency with him who gives the Increaſe! And then Chriſt's Body the Church, could not with Truth and Juſtice, be ſaid to have Nouriſhment continually miniſtred to it from its glorious Life-giving Head! And then we muſt not truſt our own Eyes, for what we read in the Bible, nor our own Experience, for what we moſt certainly feel tranſacted in our Souls.

Horrid Doctrine! which flies in the Face of the whole Goſpel; whither does the Pride of unrenewed Nature carry ſuch Men, that they ſcorn to take Heaven at ſo low a Rate, as to be eternal Debtors to the Righteouſneſs, Spirit, and Grace of Jeſus Chriſt for it, but muſt carry it by Triumph; and, for that End, will leave the plain Scripture-revelation, to find ſome new Paſſage to Heaven, ſince they will

will not go in the ſame Road to Salvation with them that are *ſanctified in Chriſt Jeſus, called to be ſaints*, whoſe very Name they ſo much hate and deſpiſe.

I heartily wiſh they would ſearch the Scriptures, to ſee whether theſe Things be ſo or not, and not take their Accounts of Religion and Godlineſs upon Truſt from the Writings of Men, who have ſet up the vain and feeble Reaſonings of their own Minds, againſt the plain, expreſs and univerſal Dictates of God's Word, which, if it was examined with the ſame Attention and Candour, which is due to every human Author of Name and Character, would ſoon ſatisfy all who are not quite blinded by the God of this World, that theſe many high and ſtrong Expreſſions, *to be created again in Jeſus Chriſt, to be made new creatures, to be born again, to be raiſed to newneſs of life, as Chriſt was raiſed from the dead by the glory of the father*, can mean no leſs than that the Change wrought in Converſion is entirely owing to the Spirit and Grace of God, without the Agency or Influence of any Creature, *Joh.* i. 13. *Ezek.* xi. 19. *Epheſ.* i. 17—20. The Scriptures of the Old and New Teſtament repreſent this Doctrine in the cleareſt, ſtrongeſt, plaineſt Manner, and all the Rationaliſts in the World, never have been, and never will be able, to ſhew the conrtary; but that the ſame almighty Power which firſt breathed into Man a living Soul, only can, and only does, by a farther Inſpiration and Influence, raiſe Man to a higher and nobler State and Life, than that in which he finds himſelf by Nature.

The Elect of God being by Nature, as well as the reſt of Mankind, dead in Sin thro' the Breach of the firſt Covenant, *Rom.* v. 12. *Eph.* ii. 1. could never be reſtored to Life, but by the Communication of the Spirit of Life to them; that Spirit they could not have from an unattoned unreconciled God! For, as their natural Corruption and Defilement is a Breach of the holy and righteous Law of God, hence the Curſes

Curſes of the Law, cut them off from all ſaving Communications with Heaven, and ſtop all ſaving Influences from thence; ſo that the Curſe of the Law muſt be removed, and Divine Juſtice attoned by a perfect Sacrifice, and thus Jehovah reconciled, before he can with Honour to his Juſtice, Holineſs and Faithfulneſs, give his Spirit, and open up all his Fulneſs of Grace to elect Sinners, to make them holy to the Lord! All this is done by Chriſt the bleſſed Surety, he undertook in the everlaſting Covenant, to fulfil all Righteouſneſs in their Name, and thereby to purchaſe the Spirit for them, upon which he received from the Father, the Promiſe of the Spirit to dwell in him the Head, without all Meaſure; and to be by and from him, communicated to the Elect his ſpiritual Seed, in ſuch Meaſures as to Sovereignty ſeems good, *Tit.* i. 2. 2 *Tim.* i. 9. *Gal.* iii. 16. *Iſa.* xliv. 9. *Ezek.* xxxvi. 26, 27. *John* i. 14, 16. *Col.* i. 19. This Promiſe is accompliſhed to every one of the Elect, at the preciſe Time appointed in the Covenant. The Communication betwixt Heaven and them is opened up, and gracious Influences flow out plentifully; hence we are every where ſaid to be *waſhed in Chriſt's Blood*, becauſe it has ſatisfied the Demands of Juſtice, diſſolved our Obligation to Puniſhment, and purchaſed the Spirit and Grace of God, to convert and make us holy to the Lord. This is the great leading Fruit of Chriſt's Purchaſe, and called therefore the Father's Promiſe, by way of Eminency, *Luke* xxiv. 49. Hence the great Out-powring of the Spirit was at Chriſt's Aſcenſion, when he, as our High-prieſt, carried in the Blood of his Sacrifice into the moſt holy Place not made with Hands, having obtained eternal Redemption for all whom the Father gave him, *Heb.* ix. 12. *Acts* ii. 33.

Chriſt the Surety having, in the everlaſting Covenant, received from the Father the Promiſe of the Spirit, bequeath'd the Spirit in his Teſtament to all the Elect, *John* xiv. xv. xvi. Chapters, and accordingly

ingly ſends the Spirit in *the time of love*, who pierces their hard Hearts, conquers their natural Averſion and Enmity to God and Goodneſs, and by his Almighty, ſweetly determining Power, makes them willing to yield to *Emmanuel*, who ſtands at the Door of their Hearts knocking for Entrance, and endows them with new ſpiritual Life and Powers, whereby they are enabled to betake themſelves to Chriſt, and his Righteouſneſs alone, for Juſtification and Salvation from all Sin and Wrath, and to truſt in and to him, with a well-grounded Confidence and Perſuaſion, that he will do this great Thing for them in particular! Thus God, *who cauſed the light to ſhine out of darkneſs, ſhines into their hearts, to give them the light of* his *glory in the face of Jeſus Chriſt*. He ſays, *Awake thou that ſleepeſt, and ariſe from the dead, and Chriſt ſhall give thee light*, Eph. v. 14. and then the Elect Sinner can no more continue in the State of Death, than *Lazarus* could in the Grave, after that mighty Command, *Lazarus come forth*, John xi. 43.

The Word of the Lord is the bleſſed Means and Inſtrument, whereby ordinarily Elect Sinners are converted. Not that 'tis of itſelf effectual to convert one Soul to God; for many who hear only the external Call of the Word never come to Chriſt; but by the effectual Workings of the Holy Spirit, 'tis made mighty and powerful to bring all the Elect, ſooner or later, to anſwer the Call of the Goſpel, and to come to God through Chriſt, 1 *Pet.* i. 23. *John* v. 25. *Rom.* x. 14, 15 1 *Cor.* iv. 15. The Efficacy of the Spirit, either in converting or building up of Souls, lies neither in the Means nor Inſtruments, but ſtrikes thro' all, ſo as immediately to reach its Subject. The Spirit draws Men to Chriſt *with cords of love, and bands of a man*, Hoſ. xi. 4. in a Way infinitely ſuitable to the reaſonable Nature, and to the Kingdom of Chriſt, who will reign over a free and willing People!

The Minds of Sinners are naturally blinded with Ignorance, 2 *Cor.* iv. 3, 4. and their Affections enſlaved to ſenſual Luſts and Pleaſures, *Gal.* iii. 4. and the Holy Spirit brings them to a Compliance with the Goſpel-call, by the moſt rational Conviction of their Judgments, and powerful but ſweet Perſuaſion of their Wills: He rectifies their falſe Apprehenſions, and ſhews them an infinite Evil in Sin, and infinite Beauties and Excellencies in Chriſt, and in the Ways of Holineſs: As a Spirit of Bondage, he convinces them of their Sin and Miſery by the Law; for *by the law is the knowledge of ſin*, Rom. iii. 20. *John* xvi. 8, 9, 10. *Rom.* viii. 15. Nor will Sinners ever betake themſelves to Jeſus Chriſt, till they ſee themſelves wretched and miſerable, loſt and undone, amidſt all their earthly Comforts, *Mat.* ix. 12. The Elect, as well as others, think themſelves *rich and increaſed in goods*, by Nature, *Rev.* iii. 17, 18. till in the ſet *Time of Love*, the Holy Spirit bring home the Precepts and Threatenings of the holy Law upon their Hearts, and thereby convince them, that they are by Nature altogether guilty and corrupt, *dead in treſpaſſes and ſins*, Rom. iii. 19. *Epheſ.* ii. 12. Their Hearts full of deſperate Enmity againſt God and Goodneſs, *Rom.* viii. 7. Their Perſons lothſome, and their Lives altogether hateful and diſpleaſing in the Sight of a holy God! And that they are altogether without Strength to recover themſelves, by fulfilling the Law, ſatisfying Divine Juſtice, and renewing their own Hearts and Lives, *Rom.* iii. 20. *Gal.* iii. 10, 11. and that therefore they are liable to eternal Vengeance, the Curſe of the Law belonging to them, as particularly as if the Spirit called them by Name, and ſaid, *Thou art the man!*

Thus the Holy Spirit, by the Law, which is the Word and Miniſtration of Condemnation, brings them into ſome ſuitable Degree of Fear, Terror and Bondage; ſo that, like one under Sentence of Death, they

they groan with heavy and ſorrowful Hearts, *I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, ſin revived and I died*, Rom. vii. 9. I am a guilty unclean Wretch, going down to Deſtruction, eternal Death and Damnation is my Due; and God would be infinitely holy and righteous in inflicting it upon me! I would have no Reaſon to complain, *Rom.* iii. 19. Oh *I perish*, Luke xv. 17. *Men and brethren, what ſhall I do to be ſaved?* Acts ii. 37. and xvi. 31.

When the Spirit has thus broken and wounded the hard Heart for Sin, in ſuch Meaſures and Degrees as he pleaſes, of which he only is the ſovereign Judge, having given neither Wiſdom, Authority, nor Ability to the greateſt Miniſters nor Saints, to fix a Standard in this Matter, then, ſuitably to the Caſe of the convinced Elect Sinner, he by the Goſpel, gives the Soul a real, clear, and lively Diſcovery of Jeſus Chriſt, in whom alone there is a glorious, all-ſufficient Fulneſs of Life, Righteouſneſs and Salvation, for the vileſt and greateſt Sinners, *Acts* iv. 12. 1 *Tim.* i. 15. Thus the Spirit wins and draws Sinners to Chriſt, by rectifying their Miſtakes, inlightening their Minds with the Knowledge of his glorious Perſon, Natures, Offices, Undertaking and Purchaſe; that from Eternity he undertook to be, and actually is a willing, ſuitable, all-ſufficient Saviour: That his Righteouſneſs, Spirit and Grace, are all-ſufficient to juſtify, renew, and compleatly ſanctify the moſt guilty, impure Wretches, who, in themſelves, deſerve nothing but Hell and Damnation, *Heb.* vii. 25. 1 *Tim.* i. 15. *Rev.* xxii. 17. That there is enough in Chriſt to make a full, eternal Amends for the Loſs of all temporal Things, *Rom.* viii. 18. 2 *Cor.* iv. 17, 18. And that this Jeſus is, with his Righteouſneſs and all his Salvation, by himſelf, offered to all Sinners who live under the Call of the Goſpel; and therefore to them in particular,

Iſa.

Iſa. lv. 1. *Mat.* xi. 28. *Acts* xiii. 26. 1 *Tim.* i. 15. *Revel.* iii. 17, 18. and xxii. 11.

Thus the Elect Sinner, hotly purſued by the Curſes of a broken Law, daily ringing Death and Damnation in his Ears, does, by the Spirit in the Goſpel, which is *the miniſtration of righteouſneſs*, 2 Cor. iii. 9. the Righteouſneſs of God being only therein revealed, *Rom.* i. 16, 17. get a Diſcovery of Chriſt, the glorious all-ſufficient Saviour, and of his atoning Blood, and of the New Teſtament in that Blood; and having once got, tho' the moſt diſtant View, of the City of Refuge, he makes towards it with all Speed, renouncing all Confidence in the World beſides Jeſus Chriſt, he heartily approves of this glorious Way of Salvation, as infinitely well ſuited to the Glory of all *Jehovah*'s Perfections, to the Caſe of fallen Sinners, and to his own Caſe in a very particular Manner, paſſionately deſiring to be juſtified, ſanctified, and ſaved by Jeſus Chriſt alone, crying, *What things were* formerly *gain to me, theſe I* now *count loſs for Chriſt; yea, doubtleſs I count all things*, &c. Philip. iii. 7, 9. *Matth.* xiii. 45.

It will be own'd by all who are tolerably acquainted with human Nature, in its preſent State, and conſider without Prejudice, how deep the Soul is rooted in Sin by natural Inclination, and long continued Cuſtom; how extremely averſe to Mortification, and the Ways of ſtrict Godlineſs; how obſtinately Satan, that cruel Enemy, that ſtrong Man armed, fortifies the Soul, to defend his Poſſeſſions againſt Chriſt, and intrenches himſelf in the Underſtanding, Will and Affections, by Ignorance, Error, and deep-rooted Prejudices againſt Chriſt and Holineſs, and by innumerable inchanting Luſts, and worldly Intereſts and Endearments; all who impartially conſider theſe Things, muſt own, that, even when Sinners are convinced of their Sin and Miſery by the Law, which is the Doctrine of Righteouſneſs and Life by Man's own Works and Merits, and when they are per-

perſuaded of the Suitableneſs, All-ſufficiency, and Willingneſs of Chriſt to ſave them by the Goſpel, which is the Doctrine of Righteouſneſs and Life, to be obtained only by the Obedience and Satisfaction of Chriſt the Surety; yet ſtill they are dead and lifeleſs, no more able to convert and renew themſelves, than a dead Man can ſpeak or walk, till once the Spirit of Life from Chriſt enter their dead Souls, and quicken them, open the Houſe of their Bondage to theſe Priſoners of Hope, break the Yoke of Sin and Satan from off their Necks, and incline and enable them, to cloſe with Jeſus Chriſt held forth to them in the free Offers of the Goſpel: Hence the Scriptures repreſent the Work of Converſion under the Notion of a Reſurrection from the dead, *Rom.* vi. 4. a new Creature, 2 *Cor.* v. 17. a new Creation, *Epheſ.* iv. 24. a Victory over the Powers of Darkneſs, 2 *Cor.* x. 4, 5. a Revelation of the Arm of the Lord, *Iſa.* liii. 1. And all to ſet forth that infinite Power, which is neceſſary to the Converſion of Sinners, who can no more actively concur to their own Regeneration, than Clods of Earth can form themſelves into human Bodies, or the ſcattered Particles of dead Mens Duſt, rally again into their own Places, and raiſe themſelves to Life.

There is therefore a great deal more neceſſary to the Converſion of Sinners, than a bare moral Perſuaſion, or external Repreſentation of the horrid Evil of Sin, and of the Excellency and Neceſſity of Chriſt and his Grace, leaving it to the Sinner's Choice, whether he will comply or not; there muſt be a real immediate Operation of the Holy Spirit upon the Elect, removing Deadneſs, Enmity and Rebellion, and powerfully and invincibly, yet ſweetly inclining the Soul to be the Lord's, and for the Lord. *He enlightens the eyes of their underſtandings*, Eph. i. 18. Opens their Hearts to attend to the Word of Grace, *Acts* xvi. 14. *Takes away the ſtony heart out of their flesh, and gives them an heart of flesh*, Ezek. xxxvi. 26. and

26. *and by an exceeding greatneſs of power, delivers them out of the power of darkneſs, and tranſlates them into the kingdom of God's dear Son*, Eph. i. 19, 20. *Col.* i. 13. Thus an all-conquering Delight is felt coming along with the Word, and the Work is carried on ſo, as that the Liberty of the Will is not infringed, while the Obſtinacy of the Will, and all its curſed Struggles to reſiſt the Call of God, are effectually, but ſweetly and gently ſubdued!

God promiſes, *a new heart will I give you, and a new ſpirit will I put within you!* and does he only mean, that he will perſuade them to give themſelves new Hearts? Can the rocky Heart remove itſelf? What an active Stone is that, which mounts upwards? Has the ſtony Heart a Power to change itſelf, into ſuch a Heart of Fleſh, as ſhall cauſe us walk in God's Statutes? Wherein then does it differ from the Heart of Fleſh which God promiſes? Does he who creates Men a-new in Chriſt Jeſus to good Works, only perſuade them to create themſelves? What ſtrong Arguments are neceſſary to perſuade dead Men to riſe? Surely, unleſs Men were wilfully blind, or blinded by the God of this World, they muſt ſee, from all the Terms uſed in Scripture to expreſs Converſion, ſuch an Action of the Holy Spirit denoted, as effectually, ſolely and infallibly works our Converſion, and prove the Spirit's Grace to conſiſt in a real Efficiency, and his Operations to be certainly effectual!

And who, but the Almighty Spirit of God, can effectually reach and renew the Spirits of Men? What Cauſe can be univerſal enough, to ſpread its Influences far and wide, for the Reformation of the World? The Preaching of the Word is certainly a very proper Mean for the Converſion of Sinners; but the beſt Means are ſtill but Means, and ſuppoſe an Agent that is to uſe them, as a Sword, will not cut without a proportionable Hand to manage it! As ſoon will the Breath of an Infant batter down the ſtrongeſt

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City on Earth, as the preaching of the Word will convert one Soul, without the Spirit! We are aſſured, that the wicked Inclinations and Actions of Men, are continually prompted and cheriſhed by another Spirit diſtinct from their own, even *the ſpirit that works in the children of diſobedience*, Eph. ii. 2. Now, what can we oppoſe to that powerful malicious Spirit, but the Spirit of the living God? What other Cauſe is powerful enough to do ſuch a Work, as muſt be done upon the Spirits of Men, before the State of Things become better with them? Who elſe can change Mens Natures, and the deep rooted Habits of Sin in their Minds, and make them quite other Creatures than they were before? Nothing is more evident, than that the Holy Spirit is alone a Cauſe proportionable to ſuch Effects! The very Heathen aſcribed the Power of perſuading and changing Mens Minds to a Deity! And ſhall any, in the Face of the whole Revelation, God has made of himſelf, deny it? When the Son of God himſelf was the Preacher, how little was done till the Spirit was poured forth, then Millions were ſoon ſubdued and converted to the Lord!

This bleſſed Work is carried on by the Spirit gradually, bringing Elect Souls, Step by Step, in the Method and Order ſettled in the everlaſting Covenant, by convincing them of Sin, of Righteouſneſs, and of Judgment; diſcovering their abſolute Need of a Saviour, with the infinite Suitableneſs and Neceſſity of Jeſus Chriſt to their Souls, and thus ſweetly and powerfully inclining and enabling them to cloſe with Chriſt, and to reſt upon him alone, for Life and Righteouſneſs, Grace and Glory, being aſſuredly perſuaded, that Pardon of Sin and eternal Life, is given not to others only, but to themſelves alſo, and that freely thro' the Mercy of God in Chriſt.

The Subſtance and Eſſence of this Work, is the ſame in all adult Perſons; but the Holy Spirit, who diſtributes to every Man ſeverally as he will, carries on this Work with a great and admirable Variety of Degrees,

Degrees, Meaſures and Circumſtances! The ſeveral Steps of Converſion are more clearly and diſtinctly diſcerned in ſome, than in others; in thoſe who are later brought to Chriſt, than in them who were early converted, and trained up for Heaven, as it were, by the eaſy and inſenſible Degrees of a religious Education! In ſuch as are converted from a State of groſs Ignorance, ſtupid Indifference about Chriſt and their Souls, or boiſtrous Profaneneſs, than in them who have had the Advantage of a ſober and virtuous Education! In the one Sort, the diſtinct Works of the Spirit in illuminating, convincing, humbling, drawing and uniting them to Chriſt, and ſealing them up to the Day of Redemption, are more evident and diſcernable, than in others, who can only remember, that God gave them a loathing Abhorrence at Sin, and themſelves for it; a high Eſteem for Jeſus Chriſt, unquenchable Deſires after him, a Love for all the Godly, a Care about all Duty, and Zeal againſt all Sin; but as to the Time, Place, Inſtruments and Manner of the Work, they can give but an obſcure confuſed Account of them: However, if the Work be real, one Thing they can ſay, That whereas I was all my Days formerly blind, and a Hater of God, I now ſee; and he who knows all Things, knows that I love him; and have no Reaſon to be troubled, becauſe the Manner and Circumſtances of this Work, is not ſo evident to them as to others!

Great Allowances muſt alſo be made for different Capacities, Conſtitutions and outward Circumſtances, which make a very wide Difference among true Converts! Some have gained a generous Contempt of the World, and with ardent Deſires, continually preſs to the amiable Manſions of the Saints above, while others are caring and contriving for this preſent Life, and making what they think needful Proviſion for their Families! Some can freely devote their Subſtance and their Time to any religious Ser-

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vice, while others are too apt to over-value their outward Eaſe and Enjoyments! Some there are, whoſe Joys and Comforts in the Ways of God do greatly abound; others are of ſad and ſorrowful Spirits almoſt all their Days! Some have a mighty Zeal for Religion, and the Intereſt of Chriſt in the World; others are more ſilent and contracted in their Views of Things! Some ſcarce fear any Affliction or Calamity; others are too often perplexed with the Fear of Death, or of Poverty, or ſome approaching Evil! The Faith of ſome grows exceedingly, 2 *Theſ.* i. 3. in others, *the things that remain are ready to die*, Rev. iii. 2. In all theſe the Work of God may be equally true and real, tho' not equally clear, and none of them muſt dare to reject all thoſe for Hypocrites or natural Men, who do not agree preciſely to their Standard in all Circumſtances! The Holy Scriptures have fixed no general Standard in all Circumſtances, and they are very daring who venture to do it! None of God's Children will indulge ſuch a Spirit in themſelves, unleſs they be under the prevailing Power of Temptations; *For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may inſtruct him?* Or, ſhall not the Holy Spirit diſtribute to every Man ſeverally as he will?

Indeed, when we can call to Remembrance the Time when, the Place where, and Inſtruments by whom that bleſſed Work was wrought, it muſt needs be exceeding ſweet, and cannot but yield freſh Delight to the Soul every Time they are reflected on; but let the great momentuous Thing, the Subſtance and Reality of the Work, appear by its bleſſed Fruits; and there is not the leaſt Reaſon to be uneaſy, becauſe the Manner and Circumſtances are not ſo evident and diſcernable; any more than there could be Reaſon for a Man to torment himſelf with the extravagant Fancy, that he is not alive, merely becauſe there is no Regiſter of the Time and Place of his Birth, nor any Knowledge of thoſe who were the Inſtruments

of bringing him into the World! If the Spirit witneſs with our Spirits, that we are made alive to God, it will be a ſmall Matter to be judged by blind, raſh, Fellow-chriſtians, who can't ſatisfy their reſtleſs Spirits, without being wiſe, above what is written.

The Scripture reveals nothing about the Length of Time, wherein a Sinner continues under the converting Work of the Spirit, nor was there the leaſt Neceſſity for any ſuch Revelation! *That old things muſt paſs away, and all things become new* in the Converted, is very certain: But that the creating a Divine Life in dead Souls, muſt always be the Work of long Time, of Weeks, Months, or Years, is no where determined! How ſoon was *Paul*, a raging Perſecutor, turned into a ſhining Saint, or incarnate Seraphim? The Three thouſand mentioned, *Acts* ii. the Jaylor, *Acts* xvi. 30,--34. the Thief upon the Croſs, have in one Hour their Eyes opened, and are *turned from darkneſs to light, and from the power of ſatan to God!*

The Creator of the Ends of the Earth, can, with infinite Eaſe, in one Moment, ſhine into the Heart, to give a poor Creature *the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jeſus Chriſt!* In all God's Diſpenſations there is a great Variety, and ſo in this Caſe alſo. We ſee in common Life, one will learn more in an Hour, than another in a Week, and an honeſt, candid Mind, be overcome by ſmall Entreaty, when the cleareſt, ſtrongeſt Reaſonings can hardly prevail upon the more dull or obſtinate! We ſhould never have known any Thing, to any valuable Purpoſe, either of God, or of Converſion to him by his Spirit, if JEHOVAH had not been pleaſed to reveal it in his Word, and we muſt take the Account of Things that is given us there, and not indulge vain Dreams and Fancies: *To the law and to the teſtimony; if they ſpeak not according to theſe things, there is no truth in them*, Iſa. viii. 20. Bleſſed

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are all they, who *take heed to that more ſure word of propheſy, as to a light that ſhineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day-ſtar ariſe in their hearts*, 2 Pet. i. 19. Gal. vi. 16.

A Soul indeed may be for a long Time under ſome Kind of Convictions, Humiliation, and legal Sorrow and Repentance, waiting at the Pool of *Betheſda*, attending the Ordinances and Means of Grace; but when the ſet Time comes for quickening ſuch a Soul, 'tis done in a Moment! The Tranſition from Death to Life, does not admit of long Delays! A Man muſt either be alive or dead, in a State of Grace, or in a State of black Nature; juſtified freely, or under the Curſe and Condemnation of God! There neither is nor can be any intermediate State betwixt the converted and unconverted, the regenerate and unregenerate! So long as a Man is in the State of ſpiritual Death, he is unconverted; but the Moment in which he begins to live ſpiritually, he is certainly converted, Grace is begun, and however weak, muſt end in Glory!

The Sinner is renewed in the Spirit of his Mind, and has every Principle of Grace that is neceſſary to conſtitute him a Child of God, tho' as yet all be but in miniature, and very inconſiderable, compared with what it may in Time grow to! The new Creature is formed, not like a Statue, in making of which, one Limb or Feature may be carved out, and compleated, whilſt all the reſt ly ſhapeleſs, and in the rough Stone; but 'tis formed like a Child which is born into the World, which has all the Parts of the human Body at firſt, tho' very little and ſmall, and muſt have Time to grow to their full Perfection: So they who are born of the Spirit have the Divine Image, as to every eſſential Part, drawn upon their Souls, but yet are capable of continual Improvements, till they become perfect, *as our Father in heaven is perfect!*

All

All true Converts are in ſuch Meaſures and Degrees, as Sovereignty ſees meet, convinced that they are Sinners by Nature, in Heart and Life, loſt and undone under the Curſe of the Law, and utterly unable to recover themſelves, brought to deſpair of Salvation by themſelves, or by any Creature, and to look ſeriouſly for Relief another Way, have their Eyes opened to ſee Jeſus Chriſt the only begotten of the Father, to be an infinitely ſuitable, excellent, glorious, ſovereign Remedy, for their Souls; and their Hearts inclined and enabled to truſt in, and to the Lord Jeſus, and him alone, for Life, Righteouſneſs, and complete eternal Salvation! In this Order the Work is carried on ordinarily in all, tho' the Time, Meaſure and Degrees of Broken-heartedneſs and Humiliation, with other Circumſtances, depend upon the ſovereign Pleaſure of the Holy Spirit, who works when how, where, upon whomſoever, and by what Inſtruments ſoever he pleaſes; ſo that the Circumſtances of this Work are more ſenſibly clear and evident in one, than in another!

Such a great and bleſſed Work, is the Spirit of the Lord at this Day carrying on in the Weſt of *Scotland*, in many Hundreds of different Ages, Capacities, Educations, and Prejudices, as none will doubt, who conſider the bleſſed external Fruits and Evidences of that Work of Grace, exactly agreeable to God's Word, tho' all theſe Fruits and Evidences, are not alike clear and ſtrong in all, nor in the ſame Perſon at all Times.

This great and uncommon Diſpenſation, merits, and will certainly excite the ſerious and impartial Enquiries of all curious, much more of all religious Minds; we are ſure, God has promiſed to pour out his Spirit in a glorious and ſignal Manner in the latter Days, and as ſure that he will perform all his Promiſes in their proper Seaſon! And what can more worthily employ the Mind of a Chriſtian, than a diligent, fair and accurate Enquiry by the Light

of

of God's Word, whether theſe preſent Appearances, be really the Accompliſhment of ſome of the exceeding great and precious Promiſes? That if they be the Fruits of the outpouring of the Spirit, we may with joyful, thankful Admiration, bleſs God for ſuch gracious Manifeſtations of himſelf to the Souls of Men, and pray for the Succeſs of his great and God-like Work, ſaying, Oh mighty Redeemer ride forth proſperouſly! It would be a very juſt and heavy Reproach to the reaſonable Curioſity, as well as religious Zeal, of the Miniſters of the Goſpel in *Scotland*, ſhould they ſuffer a Diſpenſation, ſo new and ſurpriſing, to paſs over them, without giving themſelves the Trouble to examine into it; and if any who have Capacity and ſufficient Opportunity, will venture to oppoſe, cenſure or condemn, without due Attention, and careful Examination in a Matter of ſo general Concern, they need not be ſurprized, if no Man of Senſe or Piety, can rely on their Judgment, ſince, for any Thing they know, the Matter may be quite otherwiſe than they repreſent it to be!

Men are very unapt to entertain the Belief of Things, that are above the Sphere of ordinary Obſervation, which ſurprize the Mind, and which few or none have thought of; hence, when great and glorious Things have not been done for the Church, for a long Time, but the Workings of the Holy Spirit have been in a great Meaſure reſtrained, the Expectation of ſuch a Mercy, vaniſhes very much out of Mens Minds, and they inſenſibly make their Eyes the Meaſure of their Faith, expecting to ſee only what they have been accuſtomed to ſee! We think, without the leaſt Difficulty, how Children are born, and the various Tribes of Creatures propogated in the World, but would be overwhelmed with Aſtoniſhment to ſee Men and Beaſts, Trees and Herbs, all ſtarting up of a Sudden out of nothing! Tho' in fair Reaſoning we muſt acknowledge it

would

would be juſt as eaſy for God, to create continually the whole Race of Creatures by his immediate Power, as 'tis to continue them in the Way wherein he does it! The Exertion of the ſame almighty Power is equally requiſite in both Caſes! Only our Thoughts are not overwhelmed by what is familiar to us! It would certainly be no Difficulty for God, out of Stones, to raiſe up Children to *Abraham*, to convert whole Nations of the moſt brutal Sinners to Jeſus Chriſt in one Day; and if they had the proper Evidences of Converſion, to disbelieve ſuch an Event, would be infinitely unreaſonable! And when the Lord by the Preaching of the Goſpel, the moſt familiar and eaſily conceiveable Way, brings home a greater Number of poor Sinners to Jeſus Chriſt, than has been uſual for a long Time backward, and ſcarce ſteps ſo far out of his uſual Courſe, as the Neceſſity of the Caſe of this Generation ſeemed to require, ſhall his mighty Acts be disbelieved and rejected, becauſe not familiar and uſual, and that by Men, who long profeſſed to bewail that very Thing?

Mankind are likewiſe apt to miſtake and judge amiſs, about the real Operations of the Holy Spirit, by reducing all Things to the Meaſures of the Party to which they have aſſociated themſelves, and judging it goes ill or well with the Church, as 'tis leſs or more governed, by the favourite Principles and Views of their own Party; that there is more or leſs of the Spirit, as there is more or leſs Zeal for the Intereſts of that Party? And ſo the Intereſts of the Church, and Progreſs of real Religion, are miſtaken, and the Influences of the Spirit of Chriſt moſt of all miſtaken? The Heats and Fervours, which ſome have for a little narrow Intereſt of their own, are taken for the Operations of the glorious Spirit of IMMANUEL, who works with ſovereign Power and Sweetneſs, diſtributing to every one ſeverally as he will, and bringing the Spirits of Men into a bleſſed Conformity to him, who *is the firſt-born among*

mong many brethren! So that to form a fair Judgment, in Caſes of this Nature, 'tis abſolutely neceſſary, that Men make their Obſervations, with ſincere Deſires to find out the Truth, not to gratify Curioſity, nor ſerve a little narrow Intereſt, nor to keep up a Party, nor promote a baſe Deſign, but that they may be able to underſtand what the *good and acceptable will of the Lord is*, and that their Senſes may be exerciſed to diſcern *good and evil.*

When the Lord, more generally ſhakes the Spirits of Men, and all of a Sudden, works a remarkable Change upon conſiderable Numbers, this can't miſs to be generally noticed, and as Novelty always affects, it muſt ſtrike the Minds of Men with Admiration, to ſee Perſons, perhaps, notoriouſly debauch'd and diſſolute before, ſuddenly become ſerious praying Men! To ſee many who were ſo intirely addicted and enſlaved to mere worldly Enjoyments; that one could never hear a Word from them, but what ſavoured of Earth and Senſe, now become ſpiritual and heavenly, in the prevailing Temper of their Souls, and Courſe of their Lives! To ſee thoſe who could drink, ſwear, and rant with the reſt of their diſſolute Neighbours, ſo changed, that they dare no longer be as they have been, nor do as they have done! To hear many ſpeak with Delight of God, Chriſt and Heaven, who were formerly awful Strangers to all Thoughts of ſuch Things, never mentioning them, unleſs in profane Oaths! All this muſt needs fill Men with Aſtoniſhment! Such Effects had the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, *Acts* ii. 6, 12. *It was noiſed abroad, and the multitude were confounded; and they were all amazed!*

This Aſtoniſhment will naturally lead Men to enquire into the Truth and Tendency of ſuch Things, as they did, *Acts* ii. 12. *They ſaid one to another, What meaneth this?* All the Concerns of Religion, and particularly the Work of Converſion are ſuch, as deſerve, and can bear the ſtricteſt Enquiry, and

Men

Men are only therefore not Approvers of them, becauſe they do not at all enquire fairly, or take their Accounts of them from diſtant Hearſays, or the falſe Reports of ſuch as have only gone to ſpy out the Land; and ſo can ſee no imaginable Reaſon, why Men ſhould pretend to any ſpecial Work of the Spirit of God upon their Hearts, ſince they cannot reſt upon the unenlivened Chriſtianity of the Day, at leaſt of the Party who are ſo pure in their own Eyes, that with Difficulty do they allow any to partake of the Holy Ghoſt, who do not gather with them! When once the Minds of Men are prepoſſeſſed with falſe and corrupt Principles, however ſpecious, this either reſtrains them from all fair Enquiry into Matters of this Nature, or ſets them in a direct Oppoſition to them! This generally proceeds from the enſlaving of Mens Minds to human Dictates, they take ſome one or other to be their Leader, to whoſe fallible Judgment, they inſenſibly give away that Faith and Deference, which is only due to a Divine Revelation, and will run into the greateſt Abſurdities to ſupport their Party and Prejudices! It cannot otherwiſe be eaſily accounted for, that native *Jews*, and moſt probably *Scribes* and *Phariſees*, who had often read the many Old Teſtament Promiſes concerning the great and remarkable outpouring of the Spirit, and had doubtleſs in their Way often prayed for the Accompliſhment, ſhould, notwithſtanding, be ſo far blinded and hardened, as deſperately to reſiſt the Holy Spirit, by mocking thoſe who were filled with the Holy Ghoſt! And that rather than yield to the Force of Truth, they would run into ſo terrible an Abſurdity, as to ſay, That Plenty of Wine in the Head, could enable Men to ſpeak Languages which they had never learned, *Acts* ii. 13. as when they reſolved not to own the Divine Power in our Lord's Miracles, they aſcribed his caſting out Devils to a Compact with the Prince of the Devils; ſo they,

who

who are determined not to believe any Work of the Spirit upon the Hearts of poor Creatures, who are made to cry out, *What ſhall we do to be ſaved?* turn it off with this very bold Aſſertion, that 'tis all Deluſion, ſatanical Influence! Tho' 'tis abſolutely certain, the Devil muſt ceaſe to be ſo, before he can imagine, (whatever Men may inconſiderately ſay) that to influence poor Sinners, with a deep anxious Concern about an Intereſt in Chriſt and Salvation, is a proper Device to promote his Kingdom; nor was it ever thought ſo, by thoſe, who were, of all others, leaſt ignorant of Satan's Devices!

They who long and wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, according to the Promiſes, will, upon the ſmalleſt Appearance of ſuch a Bleſſing, ſeriouſly enquire into the Truth of the Matter, Is it really ſo or not, that ſo great and remarkable a Change is wrought upon a great Number of Perſons, making thoſe ſeriouſly religious, who lately were Strangers or Enemies to it; or ſuch as were before religious, more lively and active in the Ways and Work of the Lord? When this is once found to be really true, and the Change itſelf, with the Tendency of the Impreſſions that are upon their Minds, is duly conſidered, that they are habitually led to mind God, and the Concerns of their Souls, and of an eternal World more, and, as much as in them lies, to engage all others to do ſo too; *To deny ungodlineſs and worldly luſts, and to live ſoberly, righteouſly and godly in this preſent world:* Such a Temper of Mind and Courſe of Life is ſo highly reaſonable, ſo apparently beneficial to Mankind, ſo exactly agreeable to the holy Scriptures, ſo worthy of God, to promote, ſo deſtructive of Satan's Intereſt in the World, that Men can ſay nothing with Truth or Juſtice againſt it; on the contrary, the more they enquire into it, the more muſt Reaſon and Conſcience approve, however corrupt Luſts and Affections may rage at it, and Party-Intereſts and

Prejudices ſtruggle againſt it! What, but the Power of Divine Grace could give the Hearts and Faces of ſo many poor Creatures, a bleſſed Turn, God-wards and Heaven wards? Who but the quickening Spirit of the Lord, could enliven thoſe, who before lived as if they had been altogether made of Earth, to mind principally Heaven and Eternity, to live in a more ſerious Obſervance of God's Word and Ordinances, with a more abſolute Devotedneſs, and more flaming Love to the great God, and our Saviour Jeſus Chriſt? What can be more highly reaſonable, more amiable, more deſireable, than to ſee a Multitude of Men awakening out of that drowſy, dead Sleep, into which they were ſunk, that a Spirit of Seriouſneſs, Life and Power, begins to diſcover itſelf among them, and the Beauty of Holineſs ſhines in the Life of thoſe, in whoſe Converſations there was ſcarce the leaſt glimmering of it appearing before?

All they, whoſe Hearts are warmed with ardent Love to our dear Lord Jeſus, and compaſſionate Concern for the eternal Welfare of the Souls of Men, will rejoice mightily at the Thoughts of ſuch a Diſpenſation! Who that loves God in Chriſt, or wiſhes well to precious Souls, will not rejoice to ſee him highly glorified on the ſame Stage, where he has ſo long been inſolently affronted, and that his Name is become generally more glorious, than it has hitherto been? That the pure Religion of Jeſus Chriſt, ſo long, and ſo much, blaſphemed and reproached, begins to lift up its Head again, with Honour and Triumph, over inſolent Infidelity and Wickedneſs! That the Time is come, when it ſhall ceaſe to be Matter of Reproach to fear the Lord? Or an Argument of a weak Enthuſiaſtick Mind, to love our Lord Jeſus in Sincerity! When the Prince of the Darkneſs of this World ſhall be remarkably bound, *and the word of the Lord ſhall run, and be glorified*, without Reſtraint! And effectual Endeavours

deavours ſhall every where be ſet on Foot to reſcue Souls from the common Ruin!

Every Soul, in whom the Love of Chriſt and of the Souls of Men reigns, would be pierced with the deepeſt and moſt undiſſembled Grief, to think that all the great Things the Lord is doing among the dry Bones, could poſſibly be but Deluſion; ſuch a Thought would pierce a ſerious Chriſtian's Heart, becauſe, when he reflects upon the Characters of a State of Grace, he ſees them ſhining with a brighter Luſtre, in many of thoſe with whom the Lord has been dealing, than in himſelf! And yet if all is but Deluſion, ſatanical Influence, how inexpreſſibly miſerable muſt he reckon himſelf to be? But this neither is nor can be the Caſe, as will appear to all, who ſeriouſly, and without Prejudice, examine the great and noble Effects of the Spirit of God upon the Souls of Men, and what that Change is, which always is, and only can be brought about, by a remarkable Effuſion of the Holy Spirit.

Whenever the Holy Spirit is eminently or remarkably poured forth upon Men, their Underſtandings are enlightned to know many great Truths, of which before they were either entirely ignorant, or to which they gave no juſt Attention, their Eyes are opened, and they are *turned from darkneſs to light*, Acts xxviii. 18. They who were dreadfully ignorant before, make ſurpriſing Advances in the Knowledge of heavenly aud ſpiritual Things, under the Spirit's Teachings, *John* xiv. 26. They are made *light in the Lord*, Eph. v. 8. and a heavenly Light ſhines into their Minds from the Lord's Word, which ſcatters the Clouds of Ignorance which hung upon their Minds, and makes great and clear Diſcoveries of the one true God, and of the one Mediator betwixt God and Men, and of their true State towards God, and fills with a ſacred Pleaſure and Joy in the increaſing Light of the *knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jeſus Chriſt.*

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Their Hearts are inflamed with the moſt fervent Love to God in Chriſt, ſincere Brotherly-kindneſs to all who love our Lord Jeſus, of whatever Party or Denomination, and with univerſal Charity towards all their Neighbours. This is always the bleſſed Fruit of the outpouring of the Spirit, *Gal.* v. 22. He transforms the Souls, whom he ſavingly influences into Love; then they who are afraid they are not beloved of God, can yet appeal to himſelf, as to the Sincerity of their Love to him, *Lord, thou who knoweſt all things, knoweſt that I love thee!* And they love all whom they apprehend to belong to Jeſus, not with that common, carnal Love, which is founded in natural Relation, Conformity of Tempers, Manners, or Party-principles, Prejudices, or ſome other low and mean Reſpects, which wicked Men may bear to one another, but with that noble and generous Affection, which imbraces all the Saints as Saints; becauſe they are the Children of the ſame Father, Servants of the ſame Lord, Temples of the ſame Spirit, and Heirs of the ſame Glory with them, and excites them to all proper Inſtances of Love and Charity towards them, and towards all Men. Love is of God; *and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. As he who loveth not his brother is not of God,* 1 John iii. 10. So they are aſſuredly *paſſed from death to life, who love the brethren,* ver. 14. *And in Chriſt Jeſus, neither circumciſion availeth any thing, nor uncircumciſion, but faith which works by love,* Gal. v. 6.

Whenever the Lord pours out his Spirit remarkably upon Men, as he unites them to one glorious Head, ſo he unites them to each other, as Members of the ſame Body. When he puts a new Spirit within Men, he gives them one Heart, *Ezek.* xi. 19. They all become of one Heart and one Way, agreeing about the great neceſſary Truth as 'tis in Jeſus, and about the one Way of walking with God. When the Spirit of Life entred into the dead and dry Bones,

and

and breathed Life into them, he made them a great Army; and then the next News we hear of them is, that they are made one Stick in God's Hand! Always in Proportion as the Spirit of the Lord withdraws from a Church and People, they become disunited, and broken off from one another. But when the Lord eminently pours out his quickening Life-giving Spirit, then Part comes to Part, every living Member falls into its own Place and Order, so as to make up one amiable, well-form'd Body! When the Spirit works effectually upon the Souls of many, he acts uniformly, as he has always done; for he makes those who were shattered into many Parties, and have many of them, few better Evidences of their Christianity, than their crying, *We have Abraham to our father! The temple of the Lord, the temple of the Lord are these!* Or *come see my Zeal!* To become *all of one heart and one way.* Tho' they do not agree in the same Extent of Knowledge, or Measure of Holiness in the same Strength of Faith, or Degrees of Peace and Joy; nor are all of the same Station or Use in the Church, yet being all quickened and acted by one Spirit, therefore the *multitude of them*, who really *believe*, will be *of one heart and one soul*, Acts iv. 32. and will continue so, 'till the Spirit of the Lord is provoked sensibly to depart.

When the Spirit of the Lord graciously renews the Souls of Men, they are habitually melted into Shame and deep Humiliation, under the Sense of the Greatness, Freeness, Fulness of Jehovah's Grace and Mercy towards such Sinners, Lepers, Enemies! Their prevailing Disposition is very sincere and upright! Their Wills are brought into an habitual Submission and Obedience to the Lord! Their Consciences are habitualy tender and faithful, smiting and reproving, for the smallest and most secret Sins! Their Affections are prevailingly fixed upon God in Christ, and spiritual heavenly Things! They will

be

be habitually careful to avoid, and watch againſt all Sin and Temptations to it! Filled with a conſtant Regard to every Duty, and helped to maintain an univerſal Reſpect to all God's Commandments! Wherever the Grace of God appears, illuſtriouſly bringing Salvation, and a Principle of Divine Life is infuſed, it teaches Men of all Stations *to live ſoberly, and righteouſly, and godly!* To be ſtrictly juſt and honeſt in all their Dealings with all Men, *Gal.* v. 22, 23. *Eph.* v. 9. *Tit.* ii. 11, 12. 1 *John* ii. 29. and iii. 10. In ſuch a Seaſon, the Behaviour of the real Diſciples of Jeſus Chriſt ſhall be ſo formed, that others muſt take Knowledge of them, that they have been with Jeſus! 'Tis lamentable that the Converſations of moſt Profeſſors have ſo very little that is amiable or alluring, to thoſe who are utter Strangers to Religion; but whenever the Spirit is remarkably poured forth, he makes the Beauties of Holineſs, ſhining in the Practice of real Converts, a bleſſed Means of diffuſing the Life and Power of Religion all around! Nothing can be a more natural Fruit, nor a more convincing Evidence of the outpouring of the Spirit, than ſuch a Revival of that Religion which is from above, *which is pure and peaceable, gentle, and eaſie to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocriſy,* Jam. iii. 18.

It ought likewiſe to be remembered, that whenever the Spirit is remarkably poured forth, there is uſually an eminent Communication of his Gifts and Graces to the Diſpenſers of the Myſteries of the glorious Goſpel, both as to the Increaſe of their Number, and their Abilities, with Readineſs to, and chearful Diligence in their Lord's Work! He gives *the word* himſelf, and *great is the* army *of them that publiſh it,* Pſalm lxviii. 11. Long and great, alas! has been the withdrawing of the Spirit of God from the Generality of Miniſters, and moſt of all from thoſe who feel it, who lament it not! There has been

little

little ardent Concern to win Souls to Chriſt, or to make him high, glorious and renowned in the Eyes of the World! Long Unſucceſsfulneſs has made many deſpond, or altogether thoughtleſs about the true Deſign of their being put into the Miniſtry; they go through their Work coldly and faintly; they ſpeak not like Men who hope to become the honoured Inſtruments of winning Souls to the Lord. But when the Lord thus revives his Work, the Goſpel is preached *as with the Holy Ghoſt ſent down from heaven*, 1 Pet. i. 12. Then he makes many Miniſters wiſe to win Souls, the Spirit of the Lord Jeſus with their Spirits and with their Lips, draws out their very Hearts with their Words, and makes them *travail as in birth till Chriſt be formed in the* Hearts of their Hearets; a divine, powerful Perſuaſiveneſs will ſit upon their Lips to ſoften the obdurate, awaken the ſecure, convince the Gainſayers, and break the Rocks in Pieces! The Power and Preſence of the Holy Ghoſt with them, will make them ſpeak to much better Purpoſe for *Emmanuel*'s Glory, and the Life of Souls, than ever before, with more tender Feeling and Compaſſion, more Fervency and Importunity, more Awfulneſs and Authority, and with more charming Allurements; ſo that Enemies will not be able to reſiſt the Wiſdom and Spirit by which they ſpeak.

That theſe, and ſuch plain ſcriptural Evidences of a great and gracious Work of the Holy Spirit, are to be ſeen among the People in the Weſt of *Scotland*, is a Fact which cannot be diſputed, nay quite undeniable, becauſe fairly proven by the concurring Teſtimony of a great Number of the moſt unexceptionable Witneſſes, Men wiſe and learned, and holy, altogether diſintereſted, Eye and Ear Witneſſes of the Matters they atteſt, and could not eaſily be impoſed upon themſelves; and as they are under no Temptation to it, ſo they can never be ſuppoſed to be ſo abandoned, ſo atheiſtical as to attempt, in a Mat-

a Matter of ſuch awful Moment, to impoſe upon Mankind, to compliment the Devil, and lie upon the Holy Ghoſt! So that, next to thoſe who have Acceſs to behold the whole Conduct and Behaviour of the Subjects of this Work, with the mighty Doings of the Lord among them in their ſolemn Aſſemblies, all who read this *Narrative* have the greateſt and moſt ſatisfying Evidence for the Truth of the Facts therein related; all the Evidence which the Nature of the Thing admits, and which is a ſufficient Ground for moral Certainty, or the firmeſt Perſuaſion, the Thing being credible in itſelf, and recommended by ſufficient Evidence to the Underſtandings of Men. For tho' Men are not bound to believe a Thing immediately, becauſe it is in itſelf true, for that it may be, and yet they may have no ſufficient Means to know it to be ſo; yet when a Thing credible in itſelf is made evident by all the Proof which ſuch Matters of Fact are only capable of, it then becomes the neceſſary Object of our Aſſent and Credit, which we cannot with-hold without ſinning againſt both Faith and Reaſon, againſt Revelation and the common Senſe of Mankind! The Evidence of the Spirit's gracious Operations upon that People is ſtrong, full, inconteſtible! What clear and deep Diſcoveries have they of the horrible Evil of Sin, and of their Miſery who have no Intereſt in Chriſt? What godly Sorrow for Sin? What univerſal Hatred of it, and of all Temptations to it? With what Abhorrence do they renounce their own Righteouſneſs? How entirely do they truſt to and in the Lord Jeſus, for Righteouſneſs and eternal Salvation, embracing him in all his Offices? What ſuperlative Love do they breathe to our bleſſed Redeemer? What Delight in all who bear his Image? What Love to all Men, even their Enemies? What earneſt Deſires and Prayers for the Converſion of others? What Progreſs in the Knowledge of the Things that belong to their Peace? What univerſal

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Reformation of Life? What Study of univerſal Holineſs? What holy Fear leaſt they ſhould be left to deceive themſelves? What Care and Watchfulneſs to avoid all Sin? What holy Diligence in working out Salvation-work? What conſcientious Diligence even in the Buſineſs of their Stations and Callings? What Faithfulneſs and Conſcientiouſneſs in the Duties of their ſeveral Relations are now to be ſeen among them? And is all this various Evidence to be overturned by mere Hearſays, or by the impious Jokes and Ridicule of the openly Profane, or the prejudiced Reaſonings of Men of a quite different Character?

Are not theſe Things ſo highly reaſonable and excellent, ſo much for the Peace and Advantage of human Society, that every ſober-thinking Man muſt approve of them? What do theſe People drive at? Whether do theſe new Impreſſions on their Minds carry them? Why, only to mind God and the Redeemer of Souls more! To give over living, as moſt Men do, in a total Neglect of their Souls and Eternity! To make it the principal Buſineſs of their Time to prepare for Death and Judgment! To fear and love the Lord! To *live by faith on the Son of God!* To be entirely devoted to his Glory! To imitate Jeſus Chriſt in univerſal Purity, Juſtice, Temperance, Humility, Self-denial, Love to Enemies, and a Readineſs, as they have Opportunity, to do Good to all Men! And what can the moſt profane and atheiſtical ſay againſt all this? Tho' their Luſts and Prejudices may rage, yet their Conſciences, if not quite murdered, will approve and own, that if there be any Reaſon why Men ſhould profeſs the Chriſtian Religion at all, the ſame Reaſons will a thouſand Times more ſtrongly oblige them to the deepeſt Seriouſneſs in that Religion; for the mere Form of Religion *without the life and power of it*, is the moſt abſurd and ridiculous Thing in the World, and for which nothing can be ſaid! The Profeſſion of down-right Infidelity is a great deal more

rational, than to pretend to the Belief and Worſhip of a God that can be pleaſed with mere Names of Profeſſion, while they who wear them, are bitterer Enemies to his Name and Glory and Goſpel, and to one another, than *Pagans* and *Mahumetans!*

Every one therefore who regards what he ſays, muſt own, it is a bleſſed God-like Work! And if it pleaſe the Lord to make it more general and diffuſed, *Scotland* will be a moſt pleaſant Part of the Earth, even *the joy of all lands!* When this bleſſed Work began, many, like the *Jews, when God turned back the captivity of Zion, were like men who dreamed!* And many were *ſlow of heart to believe*, till by the moſt accurate Enquiry, they were convinced that 'tis a great Work of God, and that *of a truth the Lord is among them!* Families once the Synagogue of Satan, are now become Temples where the moſt high God is worſhipped! The Tongue of the Blaſphemer ſpeaks now *the high praiſes of Jehovah!* And his *praiſe is perfected out of the mouths of babes and ſucklings!* Our Lord's mighty Works ſerved not only to prove, that his Doctrine was from Heaven, and his Perſon divine, but to publiſh his Fame, that diſtant Nations might be excited to enquire after him, and induced by ſuch Manifeſtations of his Glory *to believe in his name?* And now is it poſſible for Men who profeſs to believe the Goſpel, to read or hear of God's mighty Works of old and of late, and now among the People in the Weſt of *Scotland*, among whom the Redeemer of Souls manifeſts himſelf in all his Graces, Deſirableneſs and Lovelineſs; his Goſpel is preached with a peculiar Glory, Beauty and Efficacy, and many poor Worms brought into a bleſſed Acquaintance with the Counſels of his Love, the Way of his Grace and Workings of his Spirit in their Hearts! Is it poſſible to read, or hear of theſe Things, and not adore that boundleſs Grace and almighty Power, that enlightens the blind and quickens the dead, and ſeriouſly enquire

quire, Lord is it ſo with me? It is well with me at preſent; but will it be always ſo? Am I made Partaker of the Holy Ghoſt? Have I experienced his renewing, ſaving Influences? Shall I not *give all Diligence* in trying whether I am *yet paſſed from death to life*, brought from the diſmal State of Nature into the chearful State of Grace, and of Favour with God? Could I once feel this bleſſed Work exemplified upon my own Soul! Could I find the Spirit of the living God ſeizing this Heart, coming with an almighty, irreſiſtible, but ſweet Power upon it, melting it down, quickening and new-moulding it, I could then eaſily apprehend and believe, how ſuch a bleſſed Work may be, and actually is carried on in Multitudes in theſe happy Places! This great Work is not tranſacted in a Corner, but in the Face of the Sun! The Truth of the Facts is demonſtrated by all the Evidence the Nature of the Thing could bear, atteſted by the moſt credible Eye and Ear Witneſſes, living in different Corners, of unqueſtionable Veracity, and of various Ways of thinking about ſmaller Matters, who can never be ſuppoſed to combine together to promote a fraudulent Deſign; a wicked Contrivance! So that there can be no reaſonable Ground of Suſpicion or Doubt, but that this is the mighty Work of the Spirit of all Grace! And ſhall I be eaſy till I feel the ſame ſaving Grace of the Holy Spirit, happily renewing me thus in Spirit and Life?

Whoever thou art, who readeſt theſe Words, I beſeech thee, by all the great and tender Mercies of God, conſider ſeriouſly where thou art. Multitudes in the World, tho' their ſpiritual State be uncertain, or apparently evil, yet are reſolved not to doubt of it! This Neglect has been fatal to many, who comfort themſelves with their Company, becauſe the moſt are in no better Condition than they! How many poor Souls are this Day in Hell, who never feared it, never doubted of their Salvation,

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but neglected and ſlighted all Exhortations to try and make ſure! Believe it, whatever thy preſent Thoughts of Converſion may be, the Change itſelf is abſolutely and indiſpenſably neceſſary to thy Salvation! Thou muſt be converted, or be damned; born again, or turned back again from the Gates of Heaven, miſerably diſappointed!

I do not know thee, Reader, and have no other Deſign in ſaying theſe Things, but thy Soul's eternal Advantage. *My hearts deſire to God for thee is, that thou mayſt be ſaved*; and if thou would, this is the Way. No Privileges thou enjoyeſt, no Profeſſion thou canſt make, tho' never ſo remarkable, can be of the leaſt ſaving Advantage to thee, if thou art not born again of the Spirit. If thou art poor, thou mayeſt continue ſo, and yet be ſaved! If thou art deſpiſed, thou mayeſt continue ſo, and yet enjoy the Divine Favour! If thou art unlearned, thou mayeſt continue ſo, and yet go to Heaven! But if thou art unconverted and ungodly, and continueſt ſo, he who has *the key of the houſe of David*, has peremptorily determined, that thou ſhalt not *enter into the kingdom of heaven*. Could I ſpeak with a Voice that ſhall reach the whole World, I would moſt certainly proclaim it, that whatever Nation Men are of, whatever Party they belong to, and whatever their Figure and Character may be here on Earth, unleſs they are *born again, they ſhall not enter into the kingdom of God*, John iii. 35. And 'tis at thy Peril, Man, whoever thou art that readeſt theſe Words, if thou dareſt ſhew a Diſguſt, or even a Diſregard to them. This Doctrine ſtands in thy Bible, as with a Hand pointing to it, which declares it to be one of the unalterable Edicts of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let the Profaneneſs of the World, or vain Religion of the World ſuggeſt what it will, if thou art not converted and renewed by the Holy Spirit, thou art not, as yet, in the State of Salvation.

Reader,

Reader, If this be thy ſad Caſe, take no Reſt to thy ſelf, give God no Reſt, 'till he give thee his Spirit and Grace, to renew and ſanctify thy Heart and Life! If thou had but a Finger dead, it would be an Affliction; but if thou look into thy ſelf, and behold a dead Soul, a reaſonable intelligent Spirit dead, that ought to live the Life of God, devoted to God, and in Communion with him, how fearful a Spectacle ſhould this be to thee? Of all Deaths in this World, there is none ſo dreadful, and ſo much to be lamented, as that of thy precious Soul! And canſt thou be eaſy, till thou find thy ſelf made alive to God by Jeſus Chriſt?

God has appointed a ſtanding Miniſtry for this very End, that the Truths and Duties of Religion may be ſo explained and applied, as to become, by his Grace, *the power of God unto ſalvation*, Rom. i. 16, 17. The Word, as the Arrow of the Almighty, ſhot by the Omnipotent Arm of the Holy Ghoſt, pierces and ſticks in the Soul, and the Poiſon thereof drinks up the Spirit! 'Tis the Rod of God's Strength ſent out of *Zion*, whereby he breaks and cruſhes the Elect, who are, by Nature, Enemies to him, and brings them under a voluntary Subjection. The Wind and the Seas obey his Word, at his Rebuke they fly; for when he ſpeaks, he creates, and makes the dead to hear and live! Oh therefore, attend diligently upon the Preaching of the Word, as believing it to be the Ordinance of God for this great End, *Rom.* x. 14, 15. Do not wilfully, or for trifling Reaſons abſent thy ſelf from publick Ordinances; for how knoweſt thou, but God might ſend a mighty Word to reach and convert thy Soul, when, thro' a worldly or ſluggiſh Temper, thou withdraweſt from the Aſſemblies of his People?

There are certain Seaſons, in which the Lord comes nigh to Men in his Ordinances; ſuch bleſſed Seaſons are now paſſing over *Cambuſlang*, *Kilſyth*, and other Places in the Weſt of *Scotland!* A Sove-

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reign Lord came in an Hour wherein they looked not for him! And was *found of them who ſought him not*, Iſa. lxv. 1. And how know you at what Time the Spirit of the Lord may come forth in Goſpel-Ordinances, upon this great and kind Deſign? Keep your ſelves in the Spirit's Way, for he works Sovereignly, when, where, how, and upon whomſoever he pleaſes! It is certain, ye can neither convert, nor any Way prepare your ſelves for Converſion, any more than a dead Man can diſpoſe and prepare himſelf for his Reſurrection! But ye can, as reaſonable Creatures, wait upon the Ordinances of the Goſpel, and apply your Minds with more Conſideration to them than ye do! Why can't your Feet carry you to the Aſſemblies of God's profeſſing People, as well as to your Diverſions, or to the Places where wicked, debauched Company aſſemble? Who forces your Minds to wander, or cloſes your Eyes with Sleep, when the awful Matters of eternal Life or Death are ſounding in your Ears? And if an unſanctified Miniſter can apply his Thoughts to compoſe a Sermon, and preach it, why may not an unregenerate Hearer alſo apply his Thoughts to conſider it? And tho' there be no poſitive Certainty or Aſſurance, that Converſion and Salvation will follow theſe Acts, yet Hope and Probability are Motives ſtrong enough! Hope ſets all the World to Work, without abſolute Aſſurance! The Plowman plows in Hope, the Merchant ventures his Eſtate in Hope, and will ye not do as much for your Souls and Eternity, as other Men do for their Bodies and Time? Attempt to ſtretch forth the withered Hand; attempt to go to Chriſt, for many Times in the Way of poor Creatures attempting theſe Things, a mighty Power comes forth with the Call of the Goſpel, to work that in them which is required of them! Set your ſelves to hearken to the Voice of Chriſt, and to obey his Call in the Goſpel, without further Delay; be not guilty of the leaſt Averſion at, or

Neglect

Neglect of his Ordinances, 'tis a dreadful dangerous Sin to *turn away* your Ears *from him* who *ſpeaks from heaven.* Heb. xii. 25.

Reaſonable Creatures muſt make the beſt Uſe they can of outward Means, but not reſt in them; for 'tis the Spirit alone that can convert the Soul that lies in Sin and Death! If any Means could have been ſufficient to work ſuch a Change upon Men, it muſt have been the Preaching and Miracles of Chriſt; and yet we find that they, who allowed that *he ſpake as never man ſpoke*, and were ſenſible that he proved his Words, by ſuch Works as Man never did, yet notwithſtanding ſuch Convictions, turned away from him! But afterwards when he ſent his Spirit to work upon the Hearts of Men, in and by the Preaching of the Goſpel, we read of Thouſands converted at a Time! Yea theſe very Ordinances, which Men of Wit and Learning often ſcorn and deride, have by the mighty Power of the Divine Spirit produced ſuch Effects, as the wiſeſt and greateſt might be glad to experience! The ſame almighty Power and Efficacy, by which ye were made at firſt, and ſhall be raiſed at laſt, is undoubtedly neceſſary to your Converſion at preſent; and the more you are convinced that this Change is of the Spirit, the more earneſtly and importunately ſhould ye cry to him, who has this all-ſufficient Power and Grace! Thus ye are won't to do in other Caſes, where your Intereſt is concerned, to be very earneſt in ſoliciting ſuch, who have it in their Power to do that for you, which ye are not able to do for your ſelves! Tho' ye be this Day *in the gall of bitterneſs and bond of iniquity*, 'tis your Duty to pray for converting, pardoning Grace, *Acts* viii. 23.

It is certain thou art not able to pray acceptably, nor ſo much as think a good Thought of thy ſelf! But canſt thou not tell over thy wretched Condition to God in Prayer, as well as to thy Fellow-creatures? If thou canſt do no more, yet ſurely

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thou canſt tell a gracious God, how loſt and helpleſs thou art, how inſufficient to every good Work, and that thou art convinced, that nothing but his almighty Grace can ſave thee! Oh! let not thy Heart be one Moment contented with thy preſent State, but cry earneſtly for Mercy, and I'm ſure, in the Iſſue, thou wilt have no Reaſon to complain of the Unſucceſsfulneſs of ſuch a Courſe! Cry, Lord, my Sins are many, my Dangers great, and my Fears proportionable to both, what will become of me to all Eternity? I hear there is a glorious Salvation for loſt Sinners, thro' the Blood of a crucified Jeſus, but I'm afraid I'll never get an Intereſt in it, ſo many Diſcouragements break in, like Wave after Wave, on my diſtreſſed Soul! I have neither Faith nor Hope, to put up a Prayer to God, and yet I can't forbear crying, *Lord be merciful to me a Sinner*, a Leper, a vile Enemy! the young Ravens and Lions cry to thee, and thou giveſt them their Food, and preſerveſt them alive! Lord ſave me, I periſh! What ſhall a poor Creature do, that knows not how to order his Words, or perform any Thing that is ſpiritually good? How fearfully am I toſs'd in my own Spirit? I am told there is a ſafe deſireable Harbour before me, but, Lord, at how great a Diſtance am I yet from it? 'Tis not long ſince I had any Thoughts about it, and I fear I ſhall never reach it, the Waves ſwell, and prevail ſo againſt me! Oh ſave me, or I periſh! Well I muſt, I will try, what rich ſovereign Grace will do for me? If I am the vileſt Sinner that ever was, then Chriſt had never ſo fair an Opportunity of ſhewing his tender Love, infinite Power, great Faithfulneſs, and the all-ſufficient Value and Efficacy of his Blood, in all their Beauty and Glory, as now he has? What tho' I am an obſcure Perſon, and ſhould never have an Opportunity to publiſh it on Earth, yet it will not die as a Secret in my Boſom, the happy Tidings will run thro' the eternal Heavens, the bleſſed Inhabi-

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tants above will wonder at ſuch exceeding Riches of Grace and Mercy overflowing to me! Eternal Hallelujahs will be ſung to the Lamb of God upon my Account! I will therefore caſt my ſelf into the Arms of infinite Mercy, I'll ly down at Chriſt's Feet, if he ſpurn me away, I can but die then, and die eternally I muſt, if I don't apply to him! If ever Help comes, I know it muſt come this Way! I'll look, I'll cry towards his holy Temple, and earneſtly wait the Iſſue, to ſee how it may pleaſe the moſt compaſſionate Lover of Souls, to deal with mine!

Let this great and notable Diſpenſation, engage all Miniſters, faithfully to preach Chriſt crucified, and the great plain Doctrines of the everlaſting Goſpel! This is the great and bleſſed Means inſtituted by God, for converting periſhing Sinners, and building them up in Holineſs! The plain Preaching of Chriſt crucified, has been the bleſſed Means, in the Spirit's Hand, by which this Work had its firſt Riſe, and has been hitherto happily carried on! What, my Brethren, tho' our Labours have not hitherto been remarkably ſucceſsful, let us rejoice that others, in any Part of the Lord's Vineyard, are made divinely wiſe and ſucceſsful in winning Souls to Chriſt. The Spirit is, alas, in a great Meaſure withdrawn from the Churches called reformed! When do we hear of the Converſion of a Soul, of any prick'd to the Heart by the Word of the Lord? And when the mighty Workings of the Holy Ghoſt have been long reſtrained, the Expectation of ſuch a Thing, very much vaniſhes out of the Minds of Men, and they generally expect as little from abſolute Omnipotency, as from mere Impotency! They are apt to meaſure their Faith by their Eyes, and to expect to ſee only what they have been won't to ſee! But let us not deſpond, let us not be indifferent about it, but in an earneſt, longing, praying, waiting Poſture!

This dark and gloomy Night will be ſucceeded by a bright and chearful Morning! It will not be a perpetual, eternal Night! There will be a Time, when the hidden Face of God will again appear, and the Clouds remove! Let us *wait on the Lord, that hides his face from the houſe of Jacob, and look for him*, Iſa. viii. 17. *Quicquid fieri potuit, poteſt*; that which could have been done, and we ſee was done, may ſtill be done! Is the Spirit of the Lord ſtraitned? Is his Arm ſhortned? God has promiſed, and we ſhould believe that there is a proſperous State of his Church on Earth yet to come! Why ſhould it be thought an incredible Thing, that there ſhall be a glorious Reſurrection of the Chriſtian Religion, ſince he has promiſed it, who knows how to make it good, who *is the reſurrection and the life?*

Let us be found in the Way of Duty, bewailing paſt Negligence, Unfaithfulneſs and Unconcernedneſs about precious Souls, and apply ourſelves with more Fidelity and Diligence to our great Work, to preach a crucified Redeemer! It is none of our Buſineſs to make Men Philoſophers, Politicians, or Mechanicks, but Chriſtians; to beſeech them by the Mercies of God to come to Chriſt, to put him on, and walk in him, making *no proviſion for the flesh, to fulfil the luſts thereof!* To preach trifling or unrevealed Things, that have no Tendency to the Comfort or Salvation of Souls, is directly contrary to our Commiſſion, and the End of our Office, *Matth.* xxviii. 20. Let us not mix our own Notions and Inventions with the Doctrines of Chriſt, but diſpenſe the Goſpel, as we have received it from the Lord, aiming to approve ourſelves to him, in whoſe Sight we ever act and ſpeak; if we are thus faithful, we ſhall be accepted of God, whatever our Succeſs be! Never any was honoured to convert ſo many Souls to God as the Apoſtle *Paul!* Well, what Means did he uſe? He juſt preached Chriſt crucified!

fied! Chriſt reigned in his Heart, and triumphed in all his Diſcourſes! He told the People plainly, that that Jeſus, who was crucified at *Jeruſalem*, was *the Son of God*, and Saviour of periſhing Sinners, *God manifeſted in the flesh*; and that all who would be ſaved by him, muſt *believe with the heart, and confeſs with the mouth, that Jeſus is the Son of God*; muſt be juſtified by his Righteouſneſs alone, renewed and ſanctified by his Spirit and Grace; muſt be taught by his Geace, *to deny all ungodlineſs, and worldly luſts, and to live ſoberly, righteouſly, and godly, in this preſent evil world*; *not without law to God, but under the law to Chriſt!* This Doctrine needed no artificial Dreſs to ſet it off, it ſhone forth with the greateſt Majeſty in its own Light, and prevailed in the World by its Divine Authority, and the Demonſtration of the Holy Spirit, without any human Helps or Ornaments!

And while we are going on faithfully, endeavouring to declare the whole Counſel of God, let us ſend up humble, believing, continual Prayers to the God of all Grace, for his Spirit and Power to accompany his own Word, without which no Soul will ever be ſubdued to Jeſus Chriſt! The Converſion of Man is not wrought by Man, but by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit; *Paul plants, and Appolos waters, but God gives the increaſe!* It is our Honour, that we are called to be *workers together with God*, 1 Cor. iii. 9. In his Name we muſt go forth, *making mention of his righteouſneſs, even his only:* In his Strength we muſt prevail, the *weapons of our warfare muſt be mighty thro' God*; 2 Cor. x. 45. But if his Preſence and Bleſſing be not with us, we are nothing, and can do nothing! Let our Cries therefore aſcend to the Throne of God, for the pouring out his Spirit, that the Goſpel may be preached, *as with the Holy Ghoſt ſent down from heaven*, 1 Pet. i. 12. Wreſtle like Men, who

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are reſolved to take no Denial! Cry, Lord, if thy Spirit had been here with thy Ordinances, ſo many poor Souls had not remained dead under thy Word, as they do this Day! *Wilt thou not revive us, oh Lord, that thy people may yet rejoice in thee!* O pour out thy Spirit with the Word, as thou art doing elſewhere! Shall others be refreſhed with the Dews and Influences of Heaven, and we remain *a parched land, a barren wilderneſs!* Oh make *thy word mighty thro' thy great power, to open the gates of iron, and break aſſunder the bars of braſs!* Fill us with more Zeal for the Redeemer's Glory, more ardent Love to precious Souls, and a more humbling Senſe of our own Inſufficiency, and enable us to publiſh the Goſpel of thy Grace, with more illuſtrious and Divine Succeſs! Let *Paul*'s ſolemn Adjuration to *Timothy* be ſtill ſounding in our Ears, 2 *Tim.* iv. 1, 2. *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who ſhall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing, and his kingdom; preach the word, be inſtant in ſeaſon, and out of ſeaſon, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-ſuffering and doctrine!* What opiates can ſtupify the Conſciences of unfaithful Miniſters, ſo as not to be awakened by theſe ardent Expreſſions? What will be a ſufficient Defence before the enlightned Tribunal of the Moſt High and everlaſting God?

Let looſe profane Men, who reſt in a mere external Name of Chriſtianity, who mock and do all they can to hinder the Converſion of Souls to God; let them fear and tremble to ſet themſelves in Oppoſition to the Lord's Work, and to ſtrive with their Maker! *It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.* What Enemies are ye to God, and to the Souls of Men? God calls the vileſt and chiefeſt Sinners to him, and ye do all ye can to keep them backward! This is a fearful Oppoſition to God, and Confederacy with the Devil! Oh,

cruel

cruel Creatures, has Satan ſo far infatuated you, that ye are become Agents for Hell, and plead againſt your own, and other Mens everlaſting Welfare! Will ye neither come to Chriſt your ſelves, nor ſuffer your Relations, nor Neighbours, to come to him? Becauſe you cheat your Souls, with ſcarce ſo much as *the form of godlineſs*, can you bear none who ſeek after *the power of it?* Take heed what ye do, leſt ye go down to Hell with the Blood of more Souls than your own upon you! If any of you read theſe Words, oh that God may by them fix in your Hearts, a piercing Conviction of the horrid Evil of your Ways! What reaſonable Ground of Reproach is it to be a religious Man, a Fearer of the Lord? Aſſure your ſelves, Atheiſm and Irreligion ſhall not carry the Cauſe, and even tho' they ſhould, yet the religious Man would run no Hazard! And is it not wiſe and reaſonable, to chooſe the ſafeſt Side? But there is a Day coming, which will put an eternal Diſtinction betwixt them who *fear the Lord, and them who fear him not!*

What will ye do in a dying Hour, when your Heart-ſtrings and Eye-ſtrings are breaking, and all earthly Comforts vaniſhing eternally out of your Sight? What pale Horror will ſit upon your Faces? How will ye cry, Oh that the Time I have ſpent in ridiculing and running down Religion, had been ſpent in *working out my own ſalvation work with fear and holy trembling!* Oh that I had prayed and lamented after the Lord, when I was ſwearing and rioting, and reproaching them who did ſo! What Shift do ye make to ſecure your Hearts againſt Horror, at the Thoughts of the great Judgment-day, and everlaſting Burnings? Don't your Hearts meditate Terror, and your Faces gather Blackneſs? Or if you never think on theſe Things, the Wonder is as great, how ye keep theſe Thoughts out of your Hearts, and yet go on quietly in a dreadful State of Enmity againſt

againſt God and his Work! Ye have yet an Opportunity to make your Peace with God thro' Chriſt; for the Lord's Sake ſlight it not! The Door of Mercy ſtands open! The Lord Jeſus yet *waits to be gracious* to you! And ſuch is his aſtoniſhing Grace, that he will pardon and paſs by all ye have done againſt him and his Intereſt, if ye will now come to him *that ye may have life. Turn ye, turn ye; for why will ye die!* Many are the Inſtances of raging Enimies and profane Mockers, falling under the Power of God's Word! ridiculing this Moment, and the next groaning under a dreadful Senſe of deſerved Wrath, and crying, *What ſhall we do to be ſaved?* Oh, if ever the Lord Jeſus manifeſt himſelf to you, and tell you, *I am Jeſus whom ye have perſecuted*, how will it break your Hearts, and make you mourn like a Dove in the Rocks, for your bitter Enmity againſt the all-lovely, merciful *Emmanuel?* And if he never manifeſt himſelf to you, it had been better ye had never been born! *To-day therefore, while it is called to-day, hear his voice, and harden not your hearts, leſt he ſwear in his wrath, that ye ſhall not enter into his reſt!*

Let all true Converts adore and admire the Riches of *Jehovah*'s Grace and Mercy, that, while he has left Millions of Mankind in the Graves of Sin, with his awful Wrath abiding on them, *you hath he quickened who were dead in treſpaſſes and ſins*, as black and deformed as Sin and Hell could make you; *Eph.* ii. 1, 2, 3. What Thoughts muſt ye have this Day, Believers, of Chriſt, of the Redemption that is in his Blood, of the Efficacy of his Interceſſion, of the Unchangeableneſs of God's Love, the Immutability of his Covenant, of the Freeneſs and Fulneſs of all Grace, in the Face of a World of Guilt and Unworthineſs, ye cannot but ſee on yourſelves? Bleſs ten thouſand Times the happy Day, when firſt a Beam of heavenly Light broke in on your Souls,

and

and ye felt the transforming Power of the Holy Ghoſt! Ye never lived till now! Ye knew no more than the Name of Happineſs before! Let every Soul of you fall down before the Saviour, humbly and thankfully adoring him *who washed you from your ſins in his own blood*, and magnified *the exceeding greatneſs of his power*, in beſtowing upon you the richeſt Mercy that Earth or Heaven affords! Ye have now got the principal Mercies of the New Covenant! What would ye ſometimes have given for ſuch Hearts as ye now have, tho' they be not yet ſuch as ye fain would have them? Oh! praiſe the Lord who has done that for you, which none elſe could do, and which he has done but for few beſides in the World! Plead for Grace to enable you to manifeſt the Heavenlineſs and Spirituality, the Life and Power of Chriſt's holy Religion, in your Profeſſion and Converſation; that all Men may ſee you walking like ſo many Pieces of Immortality dropt down from Heaven, and tending thitherward! All full of God, and full of Chriſt, and full of Heaven, and full of Glory! The more you feel and experience the Spirit of God coming with a ſweet, but almighty, irreſiſtible Power upon your Hearts and Lives, the more ardently will you pray, and the more eaſily conceive how ſuch a bleſſed Work, may yet be carried on in the World! He who can do it in you, can do it in others, in Millions of the moſt profligate Creatures, who ſeem to be fartheſt from God and Righteouſneſs!

Pray fervently for your carnal Relations and Neighbours, that *the arm of the Lord may be revealed* to them, their Eyes opened, and their Souls *turned from darkneſs to light*, and they become the Children of God, by partaking of his Nature, and ſo being brought into his Family! If ye can help them no otherwiſe, yet ye may do it by your fervent Wreſtlings at a Throne of Grace for them! Do not

diſpair

diſpair of your unregenerate Relations, over whoſe Unbelief, Deadneſs and Hardneſs of Heart, ye have Cauſe to mourn; a Time may ſoon come when the Spirit of God ſhall put a quickening converting Power into the Means of Grace, and then your Hearts Deſires to God for them ſhall be fulfilled! Converſion is the Work of the Spirit of Life from Chriſt, and when he comes upon their dead Souls, they ſhall be made willing! Till that happy Time come, pray fervently for them, and plead prudently with them! Ye know not in what Prayer or Exhortation, the Spirit of Life may breathe upon them! *Can theſe dry bones live?* Yes, if *the ſpirit of life from God breathe upon them*, they can and ſhall live! Cry, *Lord, my hearts deſire for my brethren and kinſmen, according to the flesh, is that they may be ſaved.* I have pled with them in vain! The Work is too difficult for me! But Lord, thou canſt eaſily do it, it would coſt thee but one Word ſpeaking! What is their Ignorance, Obſtinacy and Hardneſs of H art, before that mighty Power that can *ſubdue all things to itſelf?. Lord, if thou wilt, thou can make them whole.* Oh, let thy Power go forth upon their Souls, *they ſhall be willing in the day of thy power.* Thus living to God yourſelves, and pleading with God for others, go on in your Way, humbly admiring the unſearchable Riches of Chriſt's Grace, and never open your Mouths to complain under any adverſe or bitter Providence; *Praiſe ye the Lord.*

And finally, plead fervently for the whole Land, that all Ranks may be made to feel the Divine Influence, and ſhare of the great Bleſſings of the Goſpel: That God may ſend a precious Seaſon of Grace to his Churches here, and glorioufly renew the Face of Religion in the *Netherlands!* You hear he is doing great and God-like Things elſewhere! And he is yet ſtriving with the Inhabitants of theſe Provinces

ces by his Word, his Spirit and his Providences! Cry, Father bleſs us, even us alſo, with the outpouring of thy Spirit upon all Ranks! Thou haſt more than one Bleſſing, Oh our Father! Thou haſt enough for every Church, for all the Churches! Thy Treaſures of Grace are unſearchable, thy Stores inexhauſtible, thy Heart is bounteous and large, thy Hand open and liberal! It is eaſy with thee to cauſe a Family, a Congregation, a City or Nation, to *be born in one day!* Thou haſt promiſed it ſhould be ſo in the Days of the New Teſtament Diſpenſation, when *the Spirit ſhould be poured out from on high!* That glorious Spirit of thine who quickens ſome dead Sinners, can, with infinite Eaſe, being every where preſent, almighty, and full of Grace, raiſe any Number of *Adam*'s dead Family to *newneſs of life!* His quickening Power is the ſame To-day as when three thouſand Perſons were converted at one Sermon! Plead that it may pleaſe the Lord to diſplay the Riches of his ſovereign Grace towards theſe Provinces, and his Churches in them, and pour out his Spirit upon Rulers, Miniſters and People, to make them all gracious, and holy, and rich Bleſſings in their different Stations! And that he may create upon every Dwelling-place in the Land, and upon her Aſſemblies, civil and religious, *a cloud and ſmoke by day, and the ſhining of a flaming fire by night, and that upon all the glory there be a* perpetual *defence.* That God may give us a *ſtrong city, and appoint ſalvation for walls and bulwarks round about us!* Such Concern and Prayers for the Land and Church, and for reviving the Lord's Work in *the midſt of our years*, will make you Bleſſings in the midſt of the Land, who ſtand in the Breach to turn away Judgments, when they are ready to break in, and ſtand *between the living and dead*, to make Interceſſion for a Land, when Wrath is gone out from the Lord againſt it; and thus will

you have the Honour to be, as it were, *the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof! Come Lord Jesus, come quickly*, and extend thy mild and merciful Dominion to all the Ends of the Earth, that *the wilderness and solitary places may be glad, and the desart rejoice, and blossom as the rose.*

ROTTERDAM,
Jan. 16. 1743.

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